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HOMICIDE IN CANADA - 1997

Orest Fedorowycz

HIGHLIGHTS

- The national homicide rate decreased by 9% in 1997, resulting in the lowest rate since 1969. The rate has generally been decreasing since the mid-1970's. The 581 homicides in 1997 were 54 fewer than in 1996 and 10% lower than the average for the previous ten years.
- In general, homicide rates increase from east to west. British Columbia had the highest provincial rate in 1997, followed by Manitoba. The lowest rates were in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Most provinces/territories reported a decrease in homicides in 1997, most notably in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Quebec.
- Among the nine largest metropolitan areas, Edmonton reported the highest rate, followed by Winnipeg and Vancouver. Calgary and Ottawa-Hull had the lowest rates. Calgary's rate was the lowest since 1981, when data were first tabulated by metropolitan area, and Ottawa-Hull's rate was the lowest since 1984.
- Most categories of firearm homicides decreased in 1997. The 193 shootings were 9% fewer than in 1996, and were 7% fewer than the previous ten-year average (208). Firearms have consistently accounted for about one-third of all homicides since 1979. Handguns once again comprised slightly over half of all firearm homicides.
- Males continue to account for two-thirds of all homicide victims and eighty-five percent of accused.
- Homicides continue to be committed primarily by someone known to the victim. In 1997, 58 victims were killed by a stranger (13% of all victims), 10 fewer than in 1996. Despite annual fluctuations, the proportion of homicides committed by strangers has remained relatively stable over the past ten years.
- Recent declines in homicide have not been reflected in family homicides. Despite a 9% drop in total homicides in 1997, the number of family homicides remained unchanged. While spousal homicides continued to decrease in 1997, there was a corresponding increase in parents killing children.
- In addition to the 61 females killed by a spouse, 12 females were killed by a boyfriend or ex-boyfriend. In all, over half (56%) of female homicide victims 18 years of age and older were killed by someone with whom they had an intimate relationship at some point in time.
- Over the last ten years, the homicide rate for youths (accused) has remained relatively stable while the rate for adults has generally been decreasing. From 1987 to 1996, an average of 50 youths were accused of homicide each year, representing 9% of all persons accused of homicide. In 1997, 56 youths were accused, accounting for 11% of all persons accused of homicide.
- Elderly people (60 years and older) continue to be a relatively low risk group for becoming a victim of homicide. Despite an increase in homicides from 50 in 1996 to 72 in 1997, the homicide rate for the elderly (1.46 per 100,000 population) was still much lower than the rate of 1.92 for all age groups. The lowest rates were for victims under 18 years of age (1.16).



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INTRODUCTION

Homicide – the killing of one human being by another - tends to receive more media attention than any other criminal act. Governments, criminal justice agencies and the general public have a vested interest in monitoring the nature and extent of these occurrences. Despite a growing concern among Canadians about violence, the homicide rate has gradually been declining since the mid 1970s.

This Juristat examines long-term and short-term trends and the circumstances surrounding homicide incidents. In addition, this report compares rates among major metropolitan areas, provinces and territories, and selected countries.

In Canada, criminal homicide is classified as first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter or infanticide. Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide, accidental or justifiable homicide are not included in this classification.

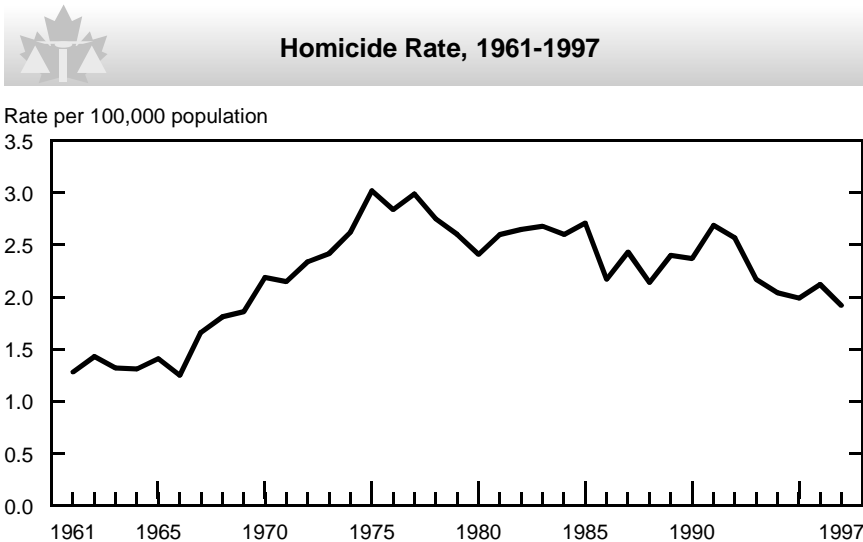
GENERAL TRENDS

Homicide rate lowest since 1969

Homicide is a relatively rare occurrence in Canada, accounting for 0.02% of the almost three million *Criminal Code* incidents reported to police in 1997. By comparison, there were nearly one and one-half times more attempted murders, almost seven times more suicides¹, and about 400 times as many assaults as homicides. The general decline in homicides, evident since the mid-1970s, continued in 1997. There were 581 homicide offences reported, 54 fewer than the previous year, and well below the average of 647 for the previous decade. The 1997 homicide rate of 1.92 per 100,000 population represented a decrease of almost 9% from 1996, and was the lowest recorded since 1969.

Since 1961, when national homicide statistics were first collected, there have been two distinct trends. After several years of stability, the homicide rate increased steadily from 1.25 per 100,000 population in 1966 to a peak of 3.02 in 1975, an increase of 142%. From 1975 to 1997, despite yearly fluctuations, the homicide rate has gradually declined, reaching a rate of 1.92 in 1997, a decrease of 36% compared to 1975 (Figure 1).

Figure 1



Source: *Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.*

¹ Statistics Canada. *Causes of Death, Catalogue 84-208, Health Statistics Division, 1998.*

Table 1



Homicide Rates for Selected Countries, 1997

Country	Homicide rate per 100,000	Country	Homicide rate per 100,000
Australia	0.86	Italy	1.53
England and Wales	1.00	France	1.66
Switzerland	1.23	Canada	1.92
Germany	1.44	Hungary	2.79
Ireland	1.50	United States	6.70

Source: National Central Bureau – Interpol Ottawa.

Homicide rate also decreasing in United States and many other countries

According to preliminary figures, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a 9% decrease in the number of homicides in the United States in 1997. There were just under 18,000 homicides reported for that year, representing a rate of about 6.7 per 100,000 population. Although Canada's rate is generally three to four times lower than the USA rate, it is still higher than many European countries. For example, England and Wales reported a homicide rate of 1.00 per 100,000 population in 1997, almost 48% lower than Canada's rate (Table 1).² Homicide rates also decreased in other European countries including France, Italy, and Germany.

Other violent crimes decreasing since 1992

In contrast to the trend in homicide rates, the violent crime rate more than doubled from the early 1970s to the early 1990s, primarily because of large increases in Level I assaults, where physical injury inflicted on the victim is relatively minor. In the early 1980's, changes in legislation (rape and indecent assault), police charging or recording practices (e.g. in spousal assault cases), and reduced societal tolerance of certain types of violence (e.g. school violence) contributed at least partly to the increased rates of assault.³ However, the violent crime rate has been decreasing since 1992 and, in 1997, recorded a 1.1% decline.⁴

There has been speculation that the declining homicide rate over the past few years may be, in part, due to victims of attempted murders being saved by more advanced medical procedures and the increased use of paramedics. This implies that the number of attempted murders in Canada would have increased in recent years. In fact, the trend in the rate of attempted murders is almost parallel to that of homicide. Therefore, it appears that the general decline in the homicide rate must be attributed to other factors.

GEOGRAPHICAL PATTERNS IN HOMICIDE

Homicide rate decreased in most provinces

Most provinces have generally followed the national trend of declining homicide rates since the mid-1970's. In the Atlantic provinces, homicide rates, while low to begin with, have remained relatively constant over the last 20 years.

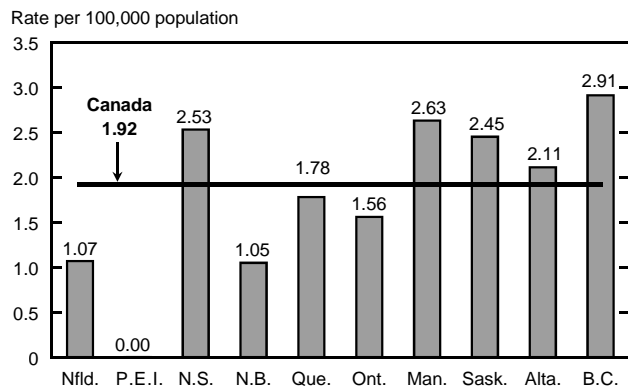
Nine provinces/territories reported a decrease in the number of homicides in 1997 (Table 2), most notably Quebec (-22), Manitoba (-15), and British Columbia (-11). Total homicides increased in Alberta and Nova Scotia.

As is the case historically, rates were generally higher in the west than in the east (Figure 2). Despite recording its lowest rate (2.91 per 100,000) in almost a decade, British Columbia had the highest rate among the provinces, followed by Manitoba (2.63). The lowest rates were in Prince Edward Island (no homicides), New Brunswick (1.05), and Newfoundland (1.07).

Figure 2



Homicide Rate by Province, 1997



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

Homicide rate in metropolitan areas same as national rate

Crime, particularly homicide, is often considered to be an urban phenomenon. However, the data show that in 1997, the homicide rate for all the 25 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) was 1.92, the same as the national rate.

² Information provided by the National Central Bureau - Interpol Ottawa.

³ Kingsley, B. *Crime Counts - A Criminal Event Analysis*, edited by L. Kennedy and V. Sacco, Toronto, Nelson Canada, 1997:101.

⁴ Kong, R. 1998. *Canadian Crime Statistics - 1997*, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 18 No.11. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Table 2



Homicides by Province/Territory, 1996 and 1997

Province/Territory	1997 ¹		1996 ^{2r}		Average 1987-1996	
	Number	Rate ³	Number	Rate ³	Number	Rate ³
Newfoundland	6	1.07	7	1.23	5	0.92
Prince Edward Island	-	0.00	1	0.73	1	0.76
Nova Scotia ⁴	24	2.53	18	1.91	17	1.79
New Brunswick	8	1.05	9	1.18	14	1.81
Québec	132	1.78	154	2.08	165	2.55
Ontario	178	1.56	187	1.66	199	1.89
Manitoba	30	2.63	45	3.96	36	3.22
Saskatchewan	25	2.45	32	3.14	27	2.67
Alberta	60	2.11	53	1.90	68	2.62
British Columbia	114	2.91	125	3.25	108	3.15
Yukon	1	3.16	-	0.00	1	4.48
Northwest Territories	3	4.44	4	5.99	6	10.27
CANADA	581	1.92	635	2.12	647	2.29

¹ The following number of homicides were reported and included in 1997 but occurred in previous years: N.S. - 6; N.B. - 2; Qc. - 5; Ont. - 8; Man. - 1; B.C. - 1; Yukon - 1; TOTAL - 24.

² The following number of homicides were reported and included in 1996 but occurred in previous years: Nfld - 1; N.S. - 1; N.B. - 1; Qc. - 1; Ont. - 6; Sask. - 1; Alb. - 1; B.C. - 2; NWT - 1; TOTAL - 15.

³ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised postcensal estimates.

⁴ One incident with five victims occurred in 1981 and was reported as a homicide in 1997.

- Nil or zero.

^r Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) - a large urban core (population of 100,000 and over) together with adjacent urban and rural areas which have a high degree of economic and social integration. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a CMA. It is important to note that, due to the relatively small number of homicides within some of the smaller CMAs, homicide rates for these areas can change dramatically from year to year.

Table 3 divides the CMAs into three population categories: nine CMAs with populations of 500,000 and over, seven CMAs with populations of 250,000 – 499,999, and nine CMAs with populations of 100,000 – 249,999. Historically, the larger CMAs have shown the highest rates. In 1997, however, there was very little difference among the groups.

Among the nine largest CMAs, Edmonton, despite a rate lower than its previous ten-year average, reported the highest rate (3.00), followed by Winnipeg (2.95), and Vancouver (2.54). The lowest rates were reported for Calgary (1.02) and Ottawa-Hull (1.15). Calgary's rate was the lowest since CMA data were first tabulated in 1981, and the Ottawa-Hull rate was its lowest since 1984. Canada's largest metropolitan area, Toronto, continued to report a homicide rate (1.71) below the national average.

Among the CMAs with populations of 250,000 - 499,999, Halifax reported the highest homicide rate (3.15), while Kitchener reported the lowest (0.69).

For the CMAs with populations less than 250,000, Saskatoon (3.59) reported the highest rate, while Chicoutimi-Jonquière recorded no homicides for the second consecutive year.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE INCIDENTS

Over half of homicides were classified as first degree murder

With the abolition of capital punishment in 1976 (Bill C-105), murder was categorized into first and second-degree (see Glossary of Terms for definitions of homicide). First degree murder, as a proportion of all homicides, has generally been increasing since 1976, although it declined from 58% in 1996 to 53% in 1997. Conversely, homicides classified by police as second degree murder have generally been decreasing, and in 1997, represented a proportion of 36%. Despite annual fluctuations, around 10% of all homicides are classified as manslaughter each year, and the remaining 1% are infanticides.

The classification of homicide offences in this report is based upon initial police investigation. In the transition period from initial police charging of the accused to final court disposition, the legal classification of an incident may change.

Six percent of homicide incidents involved multiple victims

In 1997, 533 separate homicide incidents involving 581 victims were reported by the police. The majority of these incidents (94%) involved a single victim, while 6% were multiple-victim incidents. Overall, these multiple victim incidents represented 16% of all victims, consistent with the average for the previous ten years. The 35 multiple-victim incidents (down from 40 in 1996) were distributed as follows: 28 incidents involved two victims, four incidents with three victims, and three incidents with five victims. Over half (55%) of these types of multiple victim incidents were family-related.

Eight in ten homicide incidents solved by police

During 1997, 77% of reported homicide incidents were solved by the police through the identification of at least one accused. Over the past ten years, this proportion has fluctuated between 77% and 85%. Since the process of solving a homicide can be time-consuming, an incident may not be solved until after the year in which it was initially recorded. These data, therefore, underestimate final police clearance rates.

Of those incidents cleared by police in 1997, 86% were cleared by a charge being laid and 12% by the accused having committed suicide immediately following the offence. Of the 50 incidents cleared by suicide, 37 were family-related. The remaining 2% were cleared for other reasons: Crown chose not to proceed (5), accused less than 12 years old (2), death of the accused (other than suicide) (1), and the accused was mentally incompetent (1).

Over half of victims killed in own residence

Of the 527 homicide incidents with a known location (6 were unknown), two-thirds of these occurred in a private residence in 1997: 53% occurred in a residence occupied by the victim (either solely or jointly with the accused); 11% occurred in the residence of the accused; and the remaining 4% in other residences. The majority of spousal homicides (95%) and other homicides within the family (93%) occurred in private residences.

The remaining one-third of locations were distributed as follows: 18% in an open area (e.g., a parking lot, street or field), 7% in a commercial area (e.g., bar, bank, restaurant), 4% in a private vehicle and the remaining 2% in a public institution (correctional facility (4), group home (2), community centre (2), hospital (1), school (1) and church grounds (1)).

In 1997, females were more likely to be killed in a private residence than males (80% versus 61%). This is not surprising, given two facts: females are killed in greater proportion by spouses and family members (67% for females compared to 27% for males), and spousal homicides usually occur in a private residence.

FIREARMS

Homicides involving firearms decreased in 1997

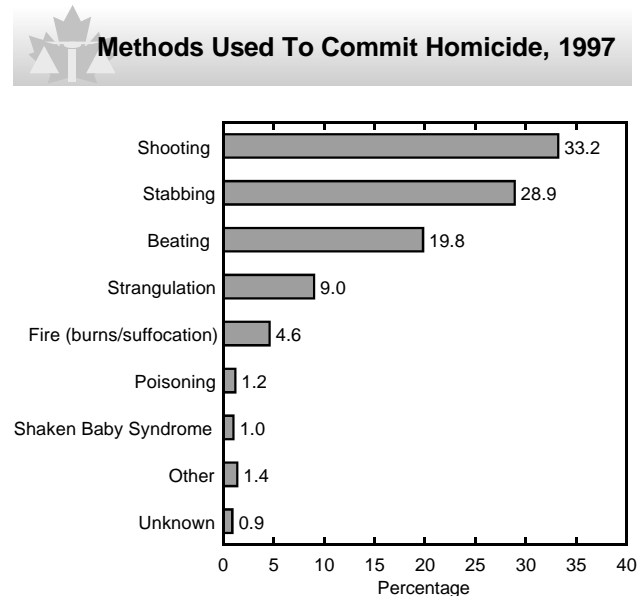
There are approximately 200 homicides each year using firearms. Homicides, however, account for a relatively small portion of all firearm-related deaths. Of the 1,131 deaths in Canada involving firearms in 1996 (the latest year that figures were available), the largest proportion of these deaths were due to suicide (78%), followed by homicide (16%), accidents (4%), and other types (2%).⁵

Since 1979, firearms have been used in about one-third of all homicides each year and this was also true in 1997 (Table 4) (Figure 3). The 193 shootings in 1997 represented a 9% decrease over the total in 1996, and were 7% fewer than the average (208) for the previous ten years. These shootings were distributed as follows: 99 (51%) with a handgun, 77 (40%) with

a rifle/shotgun, 10 (5%) with a sawed-off rifle/shotgun, 2 (1%) with a fully-automatic firearm, and 5 (3%) with other types of firearms. Most categories of firearm homicides decreased in 1997.

Between 1974 and 1990, one in ten homicides were committed each year with handguns. Since 1991, handguns have accounted for about one in every six homicides. The use of rifles/shotguns (including sawed-off firearms) in homicides has

Figure 3



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

Canada has adopted a number of legislative measures which are aimed at reducing firearm deaths and injuries. In 1977, Parliament passed legislation which amended the *Criminal Code* (Bill C-51), requiring individuals to obtain a Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) before acquiring firearms. The legislation also introduced a variety of provisions including regulations on safe storage and display of firearms for businesses and bona fide gun collectors, and mandatory minimum sentences to deter the criminal use of firearms.

In 1991, Parliament strengthened the screening provisions for FAC applicants by introducing new legislation (Bill C-17). A multi-page form with a variety of questions concerning the applicant's personal and criminal history, personal references, picture, and a mandatory 28 day waiting period for approved FAC applicants were incorporated. Under this legislation all firearm owners have to comply with safe storage, handling, display, and transportation of firearms.

In December 1995, Parliament passed Canada's newest firearms legislation (Bill C-68) which created a new *Firearms Act* and amended the *Criminal Code*. The legislation created strict new penalties for firearms trafficking and smuggling, and tougher mandatory minimum sentences for 10 serious offences involving firearms. Beginning December 1, 1998, all firearm owners and users will be required to obtain a firearm licence by January 1, 2001, and all firearms will have to be registered by January 1, 2003 (this includes non-restricted rifles and shotguns). The new legislation is intended to reduce firearm deaths and injuries by further encouraging the safe use and storage of firearms, assisting police investigations, and deterring the misuse of firearms. Other countries (e.g. England and Australia) have also introduced stricter firearm legislation in recent years.

⁵ Statistics Canada. *Causes of Death*, Catalogue 84-208, Health Statistics Division, 1998.

Table 3

Homicides by Census Metropolitan Area, 1996 and 1997

Census Metropolitan Area	1997 ¹			1996 ²			Average 1987-1996		
	Population	Number	Rate ³	Population	Number	Rate ³	Population	Number	Rate ³
500,000+ population									
Toronto	4,511,966	77	1.71	4,444,705	79	1.78	4,087,230	79	1.94
Montréal	3,384,233	72	2.13	3,359,029	71	2.11	3,231,265	93	2.87
Vancouver	1,927,998	49	2.54	1,891,357	56	2.96	1,677,426	53	3.18
Ottawa-Hull	1,045,249	12	1.15	1,030,460	17	1.65	957,876	17	1.73
Ontario	788,788	9	1.14	776,839	11	1.42	724,365	13	1.74
Quebec	256,461	3	1.17	253,621	6	2.37	233,511	4	1.71
Edmonton	899,466	27	3.00	891,541	20	2.24	854,305	27	3.15
Calgary	885,130	9	1.02	851,593	12	1.41	774,004	17	2.22
Quebec	700,197	9	1.29	697,620	15	2.15	665,523	11	1.65
Winnipeg	677,291	20	2.95	676,674	28	4.14	664,459	19	2.89
Hamilton	663,587	11	1.66	650,421	10	1.54	622,361	12	1.85
Totals	14,695,117	286	1.95	14,493,400	308	2.13	13,534,450	328	2.42
250,000 - 499,999 population									
Kitchener	433,815	3	0.69	426,044	6	1.41	391,578	6	1.40
St. Catharines-Niagara	426,659	8	1.88	421,068	9	2.14	406,717	8	1.97
London	424,304	3	0.71	416,119	4	0.96	394,105	5	1.24
Halifax	349,164	11	3.15	346,813	7	2.02	328,195	7	2.19
Victoria	320,335	7	2.19	313,424	6	1.91	296,030	5	1.79
Windsor	298,125	8	2.68	291,665	2	0.69	275,294	7	2.36
Oshawa	286,961	6	2.09	280,949	3	1.07	252,601	4	1.46
Totals	2,539,362	46	1.81	2,496,082	37	1.48	2,344,520	41	1.75
100,000 - 249,999 population									
Saskatoon	222,842	8	3.59	222,078	4	1.80	215,416	5	2.51
Regina	198,845	3	1.51	199,222	8	4.02	196,252	5	2.75
St. John's	174,118	3	1.72	177,773	3	1.69	174,358	2	1.20
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	167,515	-	0.00	166,621	-	0.00	164,839	2	1.03
Sudbury	165,757	2	1.21	166,225	4	2.41	162,108	5	2.96
Sherbrooke	150,742	4	2.65	149,959	5	3.33	143,190	2	1.19
Trois-Rivières	142,085	2	1.41	143,601	3	2.09	139,534	2	1.72
Thunder Bay	128,922	3	2.33	131,275	2	1.52	129,197	4	2.71
Saint John	128,924	3	2.33	129,122	-	0.00	128,132	4	2.89
Totals	1,479,750	28	1.89	1,485,876	29	1.95	1,453,025	31	2.11
CMA TOTALS									
	18,714,229	360	1.92	18,475,358	374	2.02	17,331,994	399	2.30
< 100,000 population									
	11,572,367	221	1.91	11,493,851	261	2.27	10,974,584	248	2.26
CANADA									
	30,286,596	581	1.92	29,969,209	635	2.12	28,306,577	647	2.29

¹ The following number of homicides were reported and included in 1997 but occurred in previous years: Toronto - 3; Montreal - 2; Hamilton - 1; Halifax - 1; Sudbury - 1; Saint John - 1; Areas < 100,000 population - 15; TOTAL - 24.

² The following number of homicides were reported and included in 1996 but occurred in previous years: Toronto - 1; Vancouver - 1; Ottawa-Hull - 1; Calgary - 1; Kitchener - 1; Halifax - 1; Oshawa - 1; Sudbury - 1; Areas < 100,000 population - 7; TOTAL - 15.

³ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates at July 1st, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

- Nil or zero.

⁴ Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

generally been decreasing, from 32% in 1974 to the present level of 15% in 1997 (Figure 4). Fully-automatic weapons were used in less than 1% of all homicides (Table 4).

While shooting was the most common cause of death in homicides in 1997, stabbing accounted for 29%, beating, for 20%, strangulation, for 9%, fire (burns/suffocation), for 5%, poisoning, for 1%, and shaking (Shaken Baby Syndrome), for 1% (Table 5).

AGE AND SEX OF VICTIMS AND ACCUSED

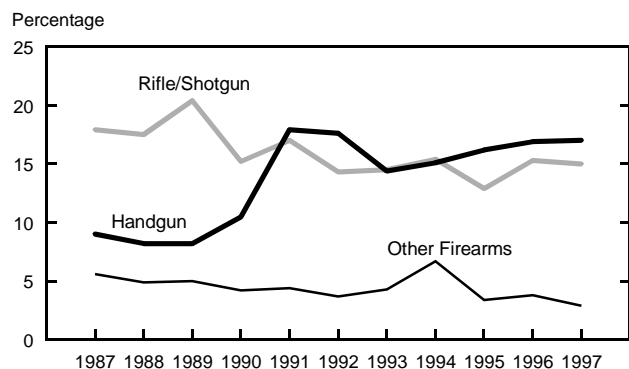
Males continue to account for two-thirds of victims and eighty-five percent of accused

Historically, about two-thirds of homicide victims are male. This pattern also held true in 1997. The median⁶ ages for male and female victims of homicide were 32 and 35 years of age, respectively.

⁶ Median refers to the middle value in a set of values ordered from lowest to highest.

Figure 4

Firearm Homicides as a Proportion of All Homicides, 1987-1997



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

Table 4



Homicides involving Firearms, 1974-1997

Year	Handgun		Rifle/Shotgun		Fully automatic firearm ¹		Sawed-off rifle/shotgun ¹		Other firearms ¹		Total homicides involving firearms	
	Number	% of Total Homicides	Number	% of Total Homicides	Number	% of Total Homicides	Number	% of Total Homicides	Number	% of Total Homicides	Number	% of Total Homicides
1974	76	12.7	180	30.0	...	...	12	2.0	15	2.5	283	47.2
1975	88	12.6	183	26.1	...	...	10	1.4	11	1.6	292	41.7
1976	68	10.2	165	24.7	...	...	5	0.7	20	3.0	258	38.6
1977	61	8.6	161	22.6	...	...	14	2.0	24	3.4	260	36.6
1978	63	9.5	177	26.8	...	...	2	0.3	8	1.2	250	37.8
1979	54	8.6	135	21.4	...	...	4	0.6	14	2.2	207	32.8
1980	62	10.5	120	20.3	...	...	4	0.7	9	1.5	195	32.9
1981	59	9.1	123	19.0	...	...	2	0.3	15	2.3	199	30.7
1982	88	13.2	146	21.9	...	...	9	1.3	5	0.7	248	37.2
1983	78	11.4	127	18.6	...	...	4	0.6	15	2.2	224	32.8
1984	66	9.9	142	21.3	...	...	2	0.3	18	2.7	228	34.2
1985	73	10.4	131	18.6	...	...	9	1.3	9	1.3	222	31.5
1986	38	6.7	114	20.0	...	...	1	0.2	22	3.9	175	30.8
1987	58	9.0	108	16.8	...	...	7	1.1	29	4.5	202	31.4
1988	47	8.2	94	16.3	...	...	7	1.2	21	3.6	169	29.3
1989	54	8.2	131	19.9	...	...	3	0.5	30	4.6	218	33.2
1990	69	10.5	99	15.0	...	...	1	0.2	27	4.1	196	29.7
1991	135	17.9	103	13.6	6	0.8	25	3.3	2	0.3	271	35.9
1992	129	17.6	90	12.3	12	1.6	15	2.0	-	0.0	246	33.6
1993	90	14.4	76	12.1	11	1.8	15	2.4	1	0.2	193	30.8
1994	90	15.1	66	11.1	14	2.3	26	4.4	-	0.0	196	32.9
1995	95	16.2	61	10.4	5	0.9	15	2.6	-	0.0	176	29.9
1996 ^f	107	16.9	81	12.8	8	1.3	16	2.5	-	0.0	212	33.4
1997	99	17.0	77	13.3	2	0.3	10	1.7	5	0.9	193	33.2

¹ The addition of a new firearm category - "fully automatic firearm" - in 1991 and the improved identification of sawed-off rifles/shotguns may account for some of the decrease in the numbers for the "other firearms" category.

... Figures not applicable or not appropriate.

- Nil or zero.

^f Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

Table 5



Homicides by Cause of Death, 1996 and 1997

Cause of death	1997		1996 ^f	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Shooting	193	33.2	212	33.4
Stabbing	168	28.9	195	30.7
Beating	115	19.8	132	20.8
Strangulation	52	9.0	59	9.3
Fire (burns/suffocation)	27	4.6	8	1.3
Poisoning	7	1.2	6	0.9
Shaken Baby Syndrome	6	1.0	7	1.1
Other	8	1.4	5	0.8
Unknown	5	0.9	11	1.7
Totals	581	100.0	635	100.0

^f Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

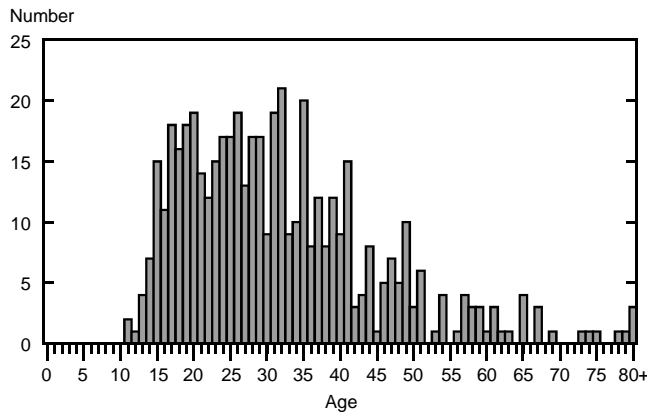
Males accounted for 85% of all those accused of homicide in 1997, consistent with the average for the previous ten years. Females accused of homicide tended to kill family members (64% of the time) more often than male accused (32%).

Average age of accused increasing

In the United States, much has been made of the fact that persons accused of homicide have become increasingly younger over the past decade⁷. This does not appear to be the case, however, in Canada. The median age of those accused of homicide has actually increased slightly over the past 25 years. From 1974 to 1986, the median age of the accused was either 26 or 27 years. Since 1986, the median age has ranged from 27 to 29 years. The most common single age (mode) for someone accused of homicide in 1997 was 32 years (Figure 5).

Figure 5

Homicide Accused by Age, 1997



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

The 15-34 age group tends to be the highest risk group for committing homicide, accounting for about 65% of all accused in a given year, while comprising approximately 30% of the total population. The population in this age group has been shrinking in number since 1990, and is expected to reach its smallest size around the year 2000, at which point it is projected to increase again⁸. All other factors remaining constant, the homicide rate may be expected to continue its general decline until the end of this decade, due to the decreasing size of this high-risk age group, before starting a general increase.

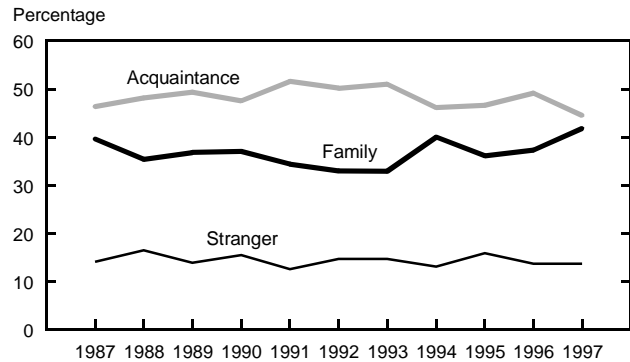
ACCUSED-VICTIM RELATIONSHIP

In general, people are more fearful of being victims of violence at the hands of a stranger than of someone they know. Media coverage of murders perpetrated by strangers tends to reinforce this fear in the minds of the public. However, data indicate that homicides are more likely to be committed by someone known to the victim than by a stranger.

In 1997, 58 (13%) victims were killed by a stranger, 10 fewer than the previous year. Despite annual fluctuations, the proportion of stranger homicides has remained relatively stable over the past ten years (Figure 6). Almost 60% of incidents where victims were killed by strangers occurred during the commission of another criminal offence. Male victims were two-and-one-half times more likely to be killed by strangers (17%) than female victims (7%), as well as being at greater risk of being killed by a non-intimate acquaintance (71% versus 25%). These patterns are also evident for other violent crimes.

Figure 6

Homicides by Accused-Victim Relationship, 1987-1997



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

Recent declines in homicides have not been reflected in family homicides. Family homicides involve spouses, parents, children, siblings or other members related either by blood or marriage. Despite a 9% drop in total homicides in 1997, the number of family homicides remained unchanged. This type of homicide included: 75 victims killed by a spouse or an ex-spouse, 62 victims killed by a parent, 18 by a son or daughter, 9 by a sibling, and 22 by another relative. (Table 6).

Spousal homicides decreasing

Spousal homicides include persons in registered marriages, in common-law relationships and persons separated or divorced from such unions. These homicides continue to account for one out of every six solved homicides (i.e., when an accused has been identified). In 1997, 75 persons were killed by a spouse or an ex-spouse, down from 81 the previous year and 90 in 1995. Four in five spousal homicide victims were women.

In 1997, 44 women were killed by a current spouse (legal or common-law), and 17 were killed by a separated or divorced spouse. The data also show that women were five times more likely to be killed by a spouse than by a stranger. Of the 14 men

⁷ Law Enforcement News, Vol. XXII, No. 452. John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY. September 30, 1996:6.

⁸ Statistics Canada. Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016, Catalogue 91-520, December 1994.

Table 6

Solved Homicides by Accused-Victim Relationship¹, 1996 and 1997

Relationship Type (Accused was)	1997		1996 [†]		Average 1991-1996	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<i>Family Relationship</i>						
Husband (legal and common-law)	44	9.9	39	7.8	53	10.0
Husband (separated/divorced)	17	3.8	23	4.6	20	3.8
Same sex spouse	1	0.2	–	0.0	–	0.0
Wife (legal and common-law)	12	2.7	16	3.2	19	3.7
Wife (separated/divorced)	1	0.2	3	0.6	2	0.3
Father	37	8.3	35	7.0	25	4.8
Mother	25	5.6	13	2.6	17	3.2
Child	18	4.0	25	5.0	19	3.6
Sibling	9	2.0	7	1.4	12	2.3
Other family relation	22	4.9	25	5.0	19	3.6
Family - Totals	186	41.8	186	37.3	186	35.3
<i>Acquaintance</i>						
(ex) Boyfriend/girlfriend	18	4.0	29	5.8	29	5.4
Close Acquaintance	28	6.3	29	5.8	32	6.1
Business associate (legal)	9	2.0	8	1.6	17	3.2
Criminal relationships ²	24	5.4	39	7.8	39	7.4
Neighbour	21	4.7	30	6.0	25	4.8
Casual acquaintance	98	22.0	109	21.9	120	22.8
Acquaintance - Totals	198	44.5	244	49.0	262	49.7
<i>Stranger</i>	58	13.0	68	13.7	74	14.0
<i>Unknown relationship</i>	3	0.7	–	0.0	6	1.0
SOLVED HOMICIDES - TOTALS	445	100.0	498	100.0	526	100.0

¹ Includes only homicide incidents in which there are known suspects. If there was more than one suspect, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.

² Includes prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients.

– Nil or zero.

[†] Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

killed by a spouse in 1997, 12 were killed by a current spouse and 2 by a separated spouse. Six in 10 incidents of spousal homicides involved a history of domestic violence known to police (9 in 10 incidents when the victim was female).

Historically, wives tend to stab their spouses while husbands tend to shoot their spouses. In 1997, 38% of wives killed were shot (70% with a rifle/shotgun), 29% were beaten or strangled, and 28% were stabbed. In contrast, 43% of husbands were stabbed, 29% were shot (75% with a rifle/shotgun), and 21% were beaten.

In addition to those killed by a spouse, 12 females were killed by a boyfriend or ex-boyfriend. In all, 56% of all female victims 18 years of age and older in 1997 were killed by a person with whom they had an intimate relationship at one point in time, either through marriage or dating.

Violence against children – a major concern

There were 64 children (under the age of 12) killed in 1997, compared with an average of 51 killed each year since 1987. In 1997, females were accused in 43% of homicides involving children, compared to 10% of homicides involving adults.

Of the 62 children killed by parents, six in ten victims were five years of age and under. In 1997, there was a large increase in

the number of mothers accused of killing their children. This figure nearly doubled, from 13 in 1996 to 25 in 1997. Most (80%) of these children were 5 years of age and under.⁹ Of the females accused of child homicide in 1997, 33% were 18 to 24 years of age, and 57% were age 25 to 39.

During the previous ten years, there has been an annual average of 11 victims of homicide under one year of age, accounting for between 2.5% and 5.0% of all victims. The figure for infants may be under-reported since some claims of accidental childhood deaths such as falls or “sudden infant deaths” could actually be due to child abuse. However, in 1995, most provinces legislated mandatory coroner inquests into deaths of children less than two years of age, which may result in the reporting of these cases in the future.

Of the 13 infants under one year of age who were killed in 1997, 8 were killed by a parent (3 by the father and 5 by the mother), one by a babysitter, one by a stranger, and in three cases the accused was unknown. Under Section 233 of the *Criminal Code*, there is a provision – *infanticide* - for diminished responsibility in the case of a mother killing her newly-born child, “if at the time of the act ... she is not fully recovered from the effects of giving

⁹ For more information, see – Fitzgerald, R. 1997. *Children as Victims of Violent Crime*, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002 XPE/F, Vol. 17, No. 11. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

birth ... or of the effect of lactation ... [and] her mind is ... disturbed." In 1997, four of the five accused mothers were charged with *infanticide*.

ALCOHOL/DRUG INVOLVEMENT

For the purposes of this report, "drugs" refer to illegal, controlled and restricted substances as defined by the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act which replaced the Narcotic Control Act and the Food and Drugs Act as of 1997. Prior to 1997, the regulation of drugs fell under two separate federal statutes: *The Narcotics Control Act*, which dealt with illicit drugs such as cannabis, cocaine and heroin; and, the *Food and Drug Act*, which dealt with controlled and restricted drugs such as amphetamines, LSD and various prescription drugs. On May 14 1997, a new act entitled the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) was proclaimed into force, replacing the two previous acts. The CDSA consolidates certain parts of the two previous acts, modernizing and enhancing Canada's drug abuse control policy. Another focus of the CDSA is to fulfil Canada's international obligations under several international protocols on drugs.

Five in ten accused and three in ten victims had consumed alcohol / drugs

Alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants are known to play a role in the commission of many crimes including homicide.¹⁰ In 1997, police reported that 33% of homicide victims and 47% of accused persons had consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the offence, consistent with patterns since 1991 when this element was first collected in the Homicide Survey. Where the blood-alcohol concentration level of the victim was known to police (316 instances), 19% of these victims were found to be legally impaired as measured by the legal driving limit of 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. Male victims were one-and-a-half times more likely to have consumed alcohol and/or drugs than female victims.

One in ten homicide incidents are drug-related

Drugs and drug dealing are believed to be the causes of many types of crimes, including homicide. In 1997, one in ten (52) homicide incidents were reported by the police to be drug-related, with 14 of the victims reported to be drug dealers.

Homicides committed during commission of another offence

Almost one-third of all homicide incidents reported in 1997 occurred during the commission of another criminal offence. Of these 166 incidents, 111 were committed at the same time as another violent offence: 58 during an assault, 27 during a robbery, 10 during a sexual assault, 6 during a kidnapping/abduction, 1 as a result of a stalking and 9 during other violent offences. A further 9 homicides occurred as a result of arson, 24 during other property offences, and 22 in combination with other types of criminal offences.

One in ten accused suspected of having a mental or developmental disorder

Recent studies on the prison population have found that one-third of incarcerated persons have some sort of mental or

developmental disorder (e.g., schizophrenia, mental retardation, dyslexia, etc.)¹¹ In order to address this issue, a new question was added to the Homicide Survey, directed at the mental state of the accused immediately before or during the homicide incident. The data indicate that in 1997, 10% of the persons accused of homicide were suspected by police of having a mental or developmental disorder. This proportion is possibly underestimated since police officers may not feel qualified to make such assessments.

OCCUPATIONS AT RISK

One police officer murdered in the line of duty

Some occupations involve more risk to personal safety than others. In Canada, the murder of police officers in the line of duty is a relatively rare occurrence. Since 1961, an average of three police officers each year has been murdered as a result of performing their duties. In 1997, one police officer was a victim of homicide. By comparison, the United States, with a population ten times greater than Canada's, reported 64 police officers murdered on the job in 1997, and all but three were killed with a firearm.

There were nine other persons murdered on the job in 1997 in Canada: 3 gas bar attendants, 3 store clerks/managers, 2 hotel managers/owners, and 1 bar manager/owner.

Drug dealers and prostitutes at risk

In 1997, 20 victims were killed while engaging in illegal activities, 14 of whom were drug dealers. There were also six known prostitutes killed in the course of their work, down from 10 in 1996. It should be noted that the number of prostitutes reported killed most likely under-represents the actual figure: only those incidents where the police are certain that the victim was killed in the course of engaging in prostitution-related activities are counted.¹²

YOUTH HOMICIDE

Since the introduction of the *Young Offenders Act* in 1984, much publicity has focussed on youths accused of homicide and their subsequent treatment by the courts. In this report, "youths accused of homicide" and "youth (homicide) victims" represent persons 12 to 17 years of age.

Rate of homicides by youths remains stable

Over the last ten years, the youth homicide rate has remained relatively stable, while the homicide rate for adults has generally been decreasing. From 1987 through 1996, an average of 50 youths were accused, accounting for 9% of persons accused of homicide annually, slightly higher their population share of 8% (Table 7). In 1997, 56 youths were accused of homicide,

¹⁰ Sacco, V., and L. Kennedy. 1994. *The Criminal Event*. Scarborough, Ontario. Nelson Canada: 47.

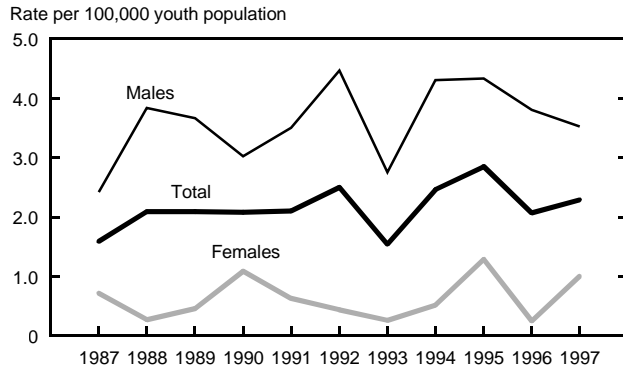
¹¹ Côté, G. and S. Hodgins. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, Vol. 15, 1992: 89-99.

¹² For more information, see - Duchesne, D. 1997. *Street Prostitution in Canada*, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 17 No. 2. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

(6 more than the previous year), representing 11% of all persons accused of homicide. The rate of homicides for youths ranged between 1.5 and 2.9 per 100,000 youths since 1987 and in 1997 was 2.3 per 100,000 youths (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Youths (Aged 12 to 17 Years) Accused of Homicide, 1987-1997



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

Between 1987 and 1996, there were almost 300 victims aged 12-17 years, accounting for 4% of all homicide victims. In cases that were solved, victims 12-17 years of age accounted for 20% of all victims killed by a youth, compared to 3% of all victims killed by an adult. In 1997, these percentages were 19% and 4%, respectively.

Between 1987 and 1996, 14% of all youths accused of homicide were female. In 1997, females represented 21% of youths accused. When expressed per 100,000 population, the rate of

female youths accused of homicide is one-quarter of the male youth rate (1.01 versus 3.52).

HOMICIDE AGAINST THE ELDERLY

Canadian victimization studies such as the 1993 General Social Survey (GSS),¹³ the 1996 International Criminal Victimization Survey (ICVS),¹⁴ and national polls underline the perception of increasing crime sensed by certain vulnerable members of society, among them, women and the elderly, defined as persons 60 years of age and older.

Elderly people still at low risk

Since the mid-1970s, the declining trend in homicides involving elderly people has mirrored that of the national trend in homicides. The elderly continue to be a low risk age group for becoming a victim of homicide. Despite an increase from 50 homicides in 1996 to 72 in 1997, the homicide rate for the elderly in 1997 (1.46) was much lower than the rate of 1.92 for all age groups. Between 1987 and 1997, the rate for the elderly was 1.43, while the rates for persons in their 30s and 40s were 3.08 and 2.59, respectively. (Figure 8).

A greater proportion of elderly homicide victims were killed by a stranger (18%) than the proportion for victims of all ages (13%). In the cases of strangers killing an elderly person, most of the accused persons were less than 25 years of age.

¹³ The General Social Survey is conducted by Statistics Canada. For more information, see – Gartner, R. and A. Doob 1994. Trends in Criminal Victimization, 1988-1993, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 14, No. 13. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

¹⁴ For more information, see – Besserer, S. 1997. Criminal Victimization: An International Perspective, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002XPE/F, Vol. 18, No. 6. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Youths (12-17 Years) Accused of Homicide, Canada, 1987-1997

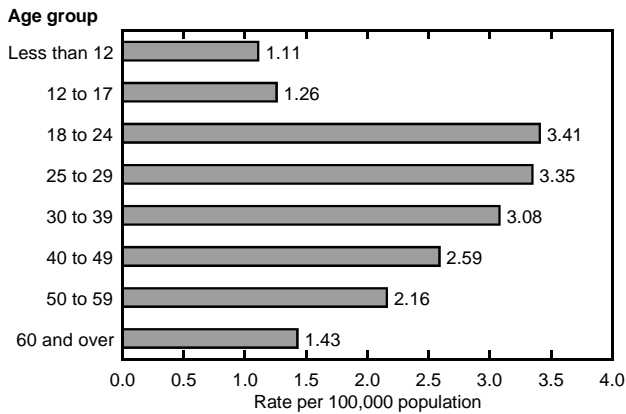
Year	Youth Population ¹ (Aged 12-17 Years) (000s)			Youths Accused of Homicide						
				Number			Rate per 100,000 Youth Population			Total Youth as % of Total Accused
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1987	1,156.2	1,104.7	2,260.9	28	8	36	2.42	0.72	1.59	6.1
1988	1,149.7	1,099.8	2,249.5	44	3	47	3.83	0.27	2.09	8.9
1989	1,148.4	1,097.4	2,245.8	42	5	47	3.66	0.46	2.09	8.4
1990	1,157.3	1,102.8	2,260.1	35	12	47	3.02	1.09	2.08	8.5
1991	1,170.2	1,114.6	2,284.8	41	7	48	3.50	0.63	2.10	7.5
1992	1,187.4	1,128.3	2,315.7	53	5	58	4.46	0.44	2.50	9.0
1993	1,200.5	1,140.8	2,341.3	33	3	36	2.75	0.26	1.54	6.6
1994	1,210.0	1,150.8	2,360.8	52	6	58	4.30	0.52	2.46	10.7
1995	1,223.2	1,163.7	2,386.9	53	15	68	4.33	1.29	2.85	12.2
1996 ^r	1,237.9	1,179.6	2,417.5	47	3	50	3.80	0.25	2.07	9.2
1997	1,251.4	1,194.0	2,445.4	44	12	56	3.52	1.01	2.29	11.3

¹ Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division
^r Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

Figure 8

Victim Homicide Rate for Selected Age Groups, Canada, 1987-1997



Source: *Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.*

METHODOLOGY

The Homicide Survey has collected police-reported data on homicide incidents since 1961, including the characteristics of victims and accused. Whenever a homicide becomes known to the police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire. This questionnaire remained virtually unchanged from 1961 to 1990. In 1991 and later in 1997, in an effort to respond to changing information needs, the survey was revised and expanded.

Note that the homicide “count” for each year reflects the number of homicides “reported” to police in that year, regardless of the date that the homicide actually occurred.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Homicide occurs when a person directly or indirectly, by any means, causes the death of a human being. Homicide is either culpable (murder, manslaughter or infanticide) or not culpable (not an offence). (*Criminal Code of Canada, sections 222 – 240*).

Murder occurs when a person intentionally causes the death of another human being, or means to cause bodily harm that the person knows is likely to cause death.

First degree murder occurs when:

- a) it is planned and deliberate or,
- b) the victim is a person employed and acting in the course of his/her work for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace (e.g., police officer, correctional worker) or,
- c) the death is caused by a person committing or attempting to commit certain serious offences (e.g., sexual assault, kidnapping, hijacking).

Second degree murder is all murder that is not first degree.

Manslaughter is generally considered to be a homicide committed in the heat of passion caused by sudden provocation. It also includes other culpable homicides that are not murders or infanticides.

Infanticide occurs when a female causes the death of her newly-born child, if her mind is considered disturbed from the effects of giving birth or effects of lactation.

Offence - one offence is counted for each victim of homicide.

Incident - an incident is defined as the occurrence of one (or more) criminal offence(s) during one single, distinct event, regardless of the number of victims. If there are multiple victims or multiple suspects, the offences must occur at the same location and at the same time if they are to be included within the same incident. The incident count will normally be lower than the victim (or offence) count due to incidents involving multiple victims.

Table 8



Number of Homicides, 1961-1997


Year	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Canada
1961	1	1	6	2	52	89	15	14	18	34	1	–	233
1962	–	1	10	8	62	76	19	13	18	55	3	–	265
1963	3	–	6	5	69	76	16	8	27	35	3	1	249
1964	5	–	13	5	52	81	16	20	25	32	1	3	253
1965	6	4	10	5	63	77	15	15	20	57	3	2	277
1966	3	1	9	6	56	71	17	12	27	48	–	–	250
1967	1	–	10	5	75	114	15	25	38	47	6	2	338
1968	5	–	9	5	102	104	28	23	25	73	1	–	375
1969	5	1	12	1	126	111	28	33	23	50	–	1	391
1970	1	1	15	8	141	115	29	24	42	78	6	7	467
1971	2	–	16	10	124	151	33	29	45	61	–	2	473
1972	2	2	14	11	157	141	36	28	37	88	3	2	521
1973	3	–	19	17	155	160	38	23	36	87	4	4	546
1974	3	2	8	21	169	160	42	31	44	107	5	8	600
1975	4	–	14	12	226	206	37	36	57	98	6	5	701
1976	6	2	25	14	205	183	31	34	68	88	4	8	668
1977	8	1	14	38	197	192	44	46	70	91	6	4	711
1978	9	4	13	27	180	182	39	32	84	85	2	4	661
1979	5	–	17	11	186	175	44	36	56	90	4	7	631
1980	3	1	12	9	181	158	31	31	55	105	2	4	592
1981	4	1	11	17	186	170	41	29	73	110	1	5	648
1982	6	–	12	13	190	184	35	39	70	109	2	7	667
1983	6	–	13	11	190	202	40	33	75	108	1	3	682
1984	6	–	15	14	198	190	43	30	54	110	2	5	667
1985	5	1	26	14	219	193	26	28	63	113	6	10	704
1986	4	–	15	12	156	139	47	26	64	89	3	14	569
1987	5	–	14	20	174	204	44	30	73	78	–	2	644
1988	7	1	11	8	154	186	31	23	66	80	1	8	576
1989	5	1	16	18	215	175	43	22	67	86	2	7	657
1990	–	1	9	12	184	182	39	36	74	110	1	12	660
1991	10	2	21	17	181	245	42	21	84	128	–	3	754
1992	2	–	21	11	166	242	29	32	92	122	2	13	732
1993	7	2	19	11	159	192	31	30	49	120	–	7	627
1994	4	1	19	15	126	192	29	24	66	113	3	4	596
1995	5	1	17	14	135	181	27	21	60	120	4	3	588
1996 ^r	7	1	18	9	154	187	45	32	53	125	–	4	635
1997	6	–	24	8	132	178	30	25	60	114	1	3	581
Totals	164	33	533	444	5,497	5,864	1,195	994	1,958	3,244	89	174	20,189

– Nil or zero.

^r Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

Table 9



Homicide Rates¹, 1961-1997

Year	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Canada
1961	0.22	0.96	0.81	0.33	0.99	1.43	1.63	1.51	1.35	2.09	6.85	0.00	1.28
1962	0.00	0.93	1.38	1.32	1.15	1.20	2.03	1.40	1.31	3.31	20.00	0.00	1.43
1963	0.63	0.00	0.80	0.82	1.26	1.17	1.69	0.86	1.92	2.06	20.00	3.85	1.32
1964	1.04	0.00	1.72	0.82	0.93	1.22	1.67	2.12	1.75	1.83	6.67	11.11	1.31
1965	1.23	3.67	1.32	0.81	1.11	1.13	1.55	1.58	1.38	3.17	21.43	7.41	1.41
1966	0.61	0.92	1.19	0.97	0.97	1.02	1.77	1.26	1.85	2.56	0.00	0.00	1.25
1967	0.20	0.00	1.32	0.81	1.28	1.60	1.56	2.61	2.55	2.42	40.00	6.90	1.66
1968	0.99	0.00	1.17	0.80	1.72	1.43	2.88	2.40	1.64	3.64	6.67	0.00	1.81
1969	0.97	0.90	1.55	0.16	2.11	1.50	2.86	3.44	1.48	2.43	0.00	3.23	1.86
1970	0.19	0.91	1.92	1.28	2.34	1.52	2.95	2.55	2.63	3.67	35.29	21.21	2.19
1971	0.38	0.00	2.00	1.55	2.01	1.92	3.30	3.10	2.69	2.71	0.00	5.45	2.15
1972	0.37	1.76	1.74	1.69	2.53	1.77	3.59	3.03	2.18	3.81	14.78	5.12	2.34
1973	0.55	0.00	2.33	2.58	2.49	1.98	3.76	2.52	2.08	3.66	18.78	9.73	2.42
1974	0.54	1.72	0.98	3.15	2.69	1.95	4.12	3.40	2.50	4.36	23.58	19.32	2.62
1975	0.72	0.00	1.69	1.77	3.56	2.47	3.60	3.91	3.14	3.90	27.27	11.57	3.02
1976	1.06	1.68	2.99	2.02	3.19	2.17	3.00	3.64	3.63	3.46	17.70	17.94	2.84
1977	1.41	0.83	1.66	5.45	3.05	2.25	4.23	4.86	3.58	3.53	26.09	8.89	2.99
1978	1.58	3.28	1.54	3.85	2.78	2.11	3.74	3.35	4.14	3.24	8.37	8.77	2.75
1979	0.88	0.00	2.00	1.56	2.87	2.01	4.23	3.74	2.66	3.36	16.60	15.18	2.60
1980	0.52	0.81	1.40	1.27	2.77	1.80	2.99	3.20	2.50	3.81	8.16	8.57	2.41
1981	0.69	0.81	1.28	2.40	2.83	1.92	3.95	2.96	3.17	3.88	4.15	10.44	2.60
1982	1.04	0.00	1.39	1.83	2.88	2.06	3.34	3.94	2.94	3.78	8.10	14.00	2.65
1983	1.03	0.00	1.49	1.53	2.87	2.23	3.76	3.28	3.13	3.70	4.20	5.83	2.68
1984	1.03	0.00	1.71	1.94	2.98	2.06	4.00	2.95	2.25	3.72	8.30	9.42	2.60
1985	0.86	0.78	2.93	1.93	3.27	2.07	2.40	2.72	2.61	3.78	24.39	18.18	2.71
1986	0.69	0.00	1.68	1.65	2.32	1.47	4.30	2.52	2.62	2.95	12.10	25.27	2.17
1987	0.87	0.00	1.56	2.74	2.56	2.11	4.00	2.89	2.99	2.55	0.00	3.59	2.43
1988	1.21	0.77	1.22	1.09	2.24	1.88	2.81	2.23	2.68	2.56	3.72	14.21	2.14
1989	0.87	0.77	1.76	2.44	3.09	1.72	3.89	2.15	2.68	2.68	7.30	12.17	2.40
1990	0.00	0.76	0.99	1.62	2.62	1.76	3.52	3.56	2.89	3.33	3.57	20.20	2.37
1991	1.72	1.53	2.29	2.27	2.56	2.34	3.78	2.09	3.23	3.79	0.00	4.89	2.68
1992	0.34	0.00	2.27	1.46	2.32	2.27	2.60	3.18	3.49	3.52	6.60	20.80	2.57
1993	1.20	1.51	2.04	1.46	2.20	1.78	2.77	2.98	1.83	3.37	0.00	11.04	2.17
1994	0.69	0.75	2.04	1.98	1.73	1.75	2.58	2.38	2.44	3.09	10.07	6.17	2.04
1995	0.87	0.74	1.82	1.85	1.84	1.63	2.38	2.07	2.19	3.20	13.11	4.55	1.99
1996	1.23	0.73	1.91	1.18	2.08	1.66	3.96	3.14	1.90	3.25	0.00	5.99	2.12
1997	1.07	0.00	2.53	1.05	1.78	1.56	2.63	2.45	2.11	2.91	3.16	4.44	1.92

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

² Estimates of population used:

1961-1990: Revised intercensal estimates

1991-1995: Final postcensal estimates

1996-1997: Revised postcensal estimates

As of 1971, population estimates were adjusted to reflect new methods of calculation.

^r Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1998.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

For further information, please contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 19th floor, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6 at (613) 951-9023 or call toll-free 1 800 387-2231. To order a publication, you may telephone (613) 951-7277 or fax (613) 951-1584 or internet: order@statcan.ca. You may also call 1 800 267-6677 (Canada and United States) toll-free. If you order by telephone, written confirmation is not required.

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