Homicide in Canada, 2003

by Mia Dauvergne

Highlights

- Canadian police services reported 548 homicides in 2003, 34 fewer than the previous year. The national rate dropped 7% to 1.73 per 100,000 population, reaching its lowest point since 1967.

- The decline in the homicide rate was driven by decreases in the number of homicides reported in British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta. Quebec (1.34 per 100,000 population) and Nova Scotia (0.85) reported their lowest rates since the 1960s.

- In 2003, the highest rates were found in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, followed by Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Yukon. Saskatchewan recorded a rate of 4.12, its highest since 1977. The lowest homicide rates were reported in the Atlantic provinces.

- Among census metropolitan areas (CMAs), both Montréal (1.59) and Québec (0.42) reported their lowest homicide rates since CMA statistics were first collected in 1981, and Halifax (0.79) reported its lowest rate since 1983. The highest rates were reported in the smaller CMAs of Abbotsford (5.07) and Regina (5.06).

- Firearms were used in less than one-third (29%) of all homicides, with handguns accounting for two-thirds (68%) of all firearm-related homicides. There was a large drop in the number of victims stabbed to death, down by 40 in 2003, resulting in the lowest number of fatal stabbings (142 or 26%) since 1980. Another 22% of victims were beaten, 12% were strangled or suffocated and 11% were killed by other or unknown means.

- One in every seven homicides were reported by police to be gang-related. There were 84 victims of gang-related homicides in 2003.

- The drop in the number of homicides in 2003 was related to fewer females being killed. There were 156 female victims, 50 fewer than in 2002. Conversely, the number of male victims increased from 376 to 392 in 2003. As in the past, almost 9 in 10 accused were male.

- Most homicides are committed by someone known to the victim. Among solved homicides in 2003, 209 (51%) were committed by an acquaintance, 139 (34%) were committed by a family member, and 57 (14%) by a stranger. The 57 victims killed by a stranger was the lowest number in more than 25 years.

- In 2003, there were 78 victims killed by their spouse (current and ex), 6 fewer than in 2002 resulting in a decline (-8%) in the spousal homicide rate for the second year in a row. Spousal homicides continue to account for one out of every five solved homicides and more than half (56%) of all family-related homicides.

- There were 33 homicides committed against children under the age of 12 in 2003, the lowest number in more than 25 years. Most homicides perpetrated against children were committed by a parent. As has been the case every year, infants (under one year of age) had the highest rates of child victimization (4.23 per 100,000 infants).

- In 2003, more than two-thirds (69%) of adult accused and 39% of youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide had a Canadian criminal record. Slightly more than half (52%) of all adult victims and 15% of youth victims also had a criminal record.

- There were 57 youth accused of homicide in 2003, 15 more than in 2002. This is the second consecutive annual increase since the low reached in 2001. All of the increase in 2003 was due to an increase in male youth.

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Introduction

Homicide is important to examine, not only because of its severity, but because it is generally recognized by experts as a fairly reliable barometer of violence in society.

As part of the Homicide Survey[1], the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) collects police-reported information on all homicides that occur in Canada. This *Juristat* examines the short and long-term homicide trends at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels. Detailed information describing the characteristics associated with homicide incidents, victims and accused persons is also presented.

General Trends

Lowest homicide rate since 1967

In 2003, Canadian police services reported a total of 548 homicides (34 fewer than the previous year) (Table 13). Compared to other types of violence, homicide is a relatively rare occurrence. In 2003, there were 710 attempted murders (up from 678 in 2002), about 23,000 sexual assaults and over 235,000 other assaults[2]. In comparison, nearly 3,700 people committed suicide in 2001 (the latest year for which figures are available)[3].

The 2003 national homicide rate was 1.73 victims per 100,000 population, the lowest recorded rate since 1967 (Table 14). Since 1961, when national homicide statistics were first collected, there have been two major trends. Following a period of stability between 1961 and 1966, the homicide rate more than doubled and reached a peak of 3.03 homicide victims (per 100,000 persons) in 1975. Since 1975, despite annual fluctuations, the rate has gradually declined (Figure 1).

Figure 1
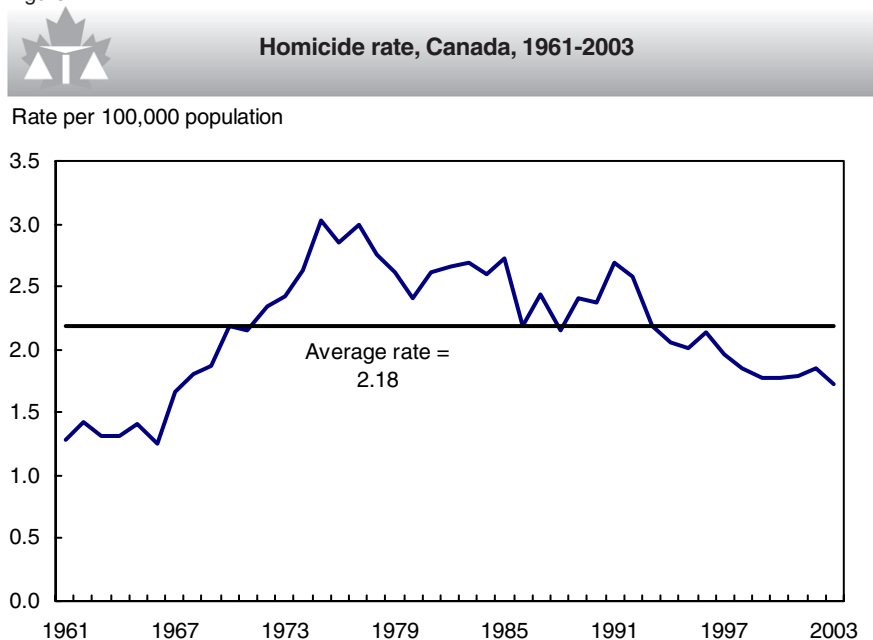
Homicide rate, Canada, 1961-2003

Rate per 100,000 population

Source: *Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.*

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1. For more information on the Homicide Survey, see the Methodology section at the end of this report.
2. Wallace, Marnie (2004). "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2003". Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE. Vol. 24, No. 6. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
3. Statistics Canada, Canadian Vital Statistics, Death Database.

The rate in 2003 was 7% lower than the previous year and 43% lower than in 1975. The decline in 2003 was largely driven by a 16% decrease in Quebec, which reported its lowest rate since 1967, and British Columbia where the homicide rate fell by 27% from 2002[4]. With 7 fewer homicides, the rate in Alberta fell by 11%.

Homicides rise slightly in the United States

Throughout the 1990s, the crime and homicide rates have also been gradually declining in the United States. According to 2003 preliminary statistics released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation[5], the number of violent crimes reported in the United States decreased 3% from 2002. However, homicides were up slightly in 2003, rising 1% from the previous year.

While the 2003 homicide rate in Canada was more than three times lower than the U.S. rate, it was still higher than some European countries, such as Germany and Switzerland (Table 1). In 2003, Canada's homicide rate was similar to the rate in France[6].

Table 1

Homicide rates for selected countries, 2003	
Country	Rate per 100,000 population
United States[1]	5.69
Turkey	5.57
Hungary	2.22
Armenia	2.00
England and Wales[2]	1.93
Poland	1.79
Canada	**1.73**
France	1.65
Australia[3]	1.63
Northern Ireland	1.53
Denmark	1.21
Greece	1.12
Switzerland	0.99
Germany	0.99
Scotland	0.64
Japan	0.51

1. *Based upon preliminary figures released by the U.S. Department of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Press Release, May 24, 2004.*
2. *Based upon 2002-03 fiscal year data. Povey, D. (2004). Crime in England and Wales 2002/2003: Supplementary Volume 1: Homicide and Gun Crime. Crime and Policing Group, Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS), London.*
3. *Based upon 2002-03 fiscal year data. Mouzos, J. & Segrave, M. (2004). Homicide in Australia. 2002-2003 National Homicide Mentoring Program (NHMP) Annual Report. Research and Public Policy Series, no. 55. Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra.*
Source: *National Central Bureau - Interpol Ottawa.*

Geographical patterns

Lowest homicide rate in Quebec and Nova Scotia since the 1960s

Historically, homicide rates in the Atlantic provinces have remained well below the national average (Table 14). This trend continued in 2003, with Prince Edward Island (0.73) reporting

the lowest rate in Canada followed by Nova Scotia (0.85), which reported its lowest rate since 1963. Newfoundland and Labrador (0.96) was one of only three provinces to see an increase in 2003, although it remained well below the Canadian average (1.73).

Over the past 30 years, the rate in Quebec has tended to equal or exceed the national average. In both 2002 and 2003, however, Quebec fell well below the overall rate. In 2003, Quebec (1.34) reported its lowest rate since 1967. Further, Quebec's rate was below that of Ontario (1.45) for only the second time since 1967.

The four western provinces have consistently reported rates above the national average. While all four provinces reported higher rates than the rest of Canada in 2003, Alberta (2.00) and British Columbia (2.24)[7] were lower than the previous year. On the other hand, Manitoba and Saskatchewan reported increases in their rates of homicide. The number of homicides in Saskatchewan increased from 27 in 2002 to 41 in 2003, resulting in the highest rate (4.12) among the provinces and its highest rate since 1977.

Because of their relatively small populations, the rates in Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut tend to be considerably higher than the rest of Canada even though the actual number of homicides each year is consistently low. In 2003, the combined number of homicides reported by the three territories totalled eight, with the rates in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut being far greater than any of the provinces.

Figure 2

Homicide rates by province, 2003
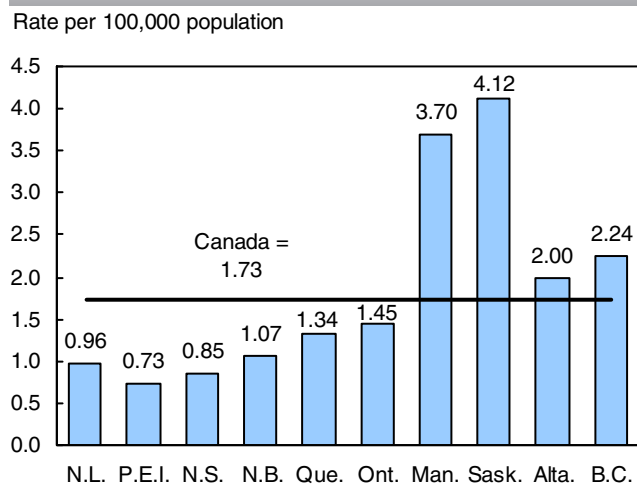
Rate per 100,000 population

Canada = 1.73

N.L. 0.96 · P.E.I. 0.73 · N.S. 0.85 · N.B. 1.07 · Que. 1.34 · Ont. 1.45 · Man. 3.70 · Sask. 4.12 · Alta. 2.00 · B.C. 2.24

Source: *Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.*

4. *There were 11 homicides reported by British Columbia in 2003 that actually occurred in previous years. Six of these were the result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C. In 2002, there were 15 homicides reported by British Columbia that occurred in previous years, all of which were the result of the investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C.*
5. *U.S. Department of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Press Release. May 24, 2004.*
6. *National Central Bureau – Interpol Ottawa.*
7. *See footnote 4.*

Historic lows in Montréal and Québec

Violent crime, particularly homicide, is often considered to be a phenomenon of large cities. However, historical Canadian data do not support this perception, as non-CMA areas typically report a homicide rate similar to those in census metropolitan areas (CMAs)[8]. In fact, in 2003, areas with less than 100,000 populations reported a combined rate (1.87) that was higher than Canada's CMAs as a whole (1.66).

Table 3 divides the CMAs into two major population categories. The first category is comprised of Canada's nine largest CMAs with populations of 500,000 and over. Historically, these large urban centres have tended to report higher rates of homicide than the smaller CMAs. This trend continued in 2003 with the combined rate in the larger CMAs (1.70) being higher than the combined rate in the smaller CMAs (1.50).

As a group, the nine largest CMAs reported 45 fewer homicides in 2003 than in 2002. This decline was led by large drops in Vancouver[9] and Montréal. The 2003 rates in both Québec (0.42) and Montréal (1.59) were at their lowest point since CMA statistics were first collected in 1981.

Although recording the highest rate for the fourth year in a row, Winnipeg's rate actually declined by 22% between 2002 and 2003. Toronto and Ottawa were the only two large CMAs to report increases in their rates over the previous year. With 95 homicides, Toronto's rate (1.86) was slightly above the national average.

The second CMA category is comprised of the 19 smaller-sized urban areas with populations between 100,000 and 499,999 residents. The highest rates were reported by Abbotsford (5.07) and Regina (5.06). It should be noted that, because of the small number of homicides in these communities and their relatively small populations, a small increase in the number of homicides in these areas will have a large impact on the rates. There were no homicides reported by Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivières and Saguenay in 2003. Halifax's rate (0.79) was its lowest since 1983.

Table 4 shows the distribution of homicides occurring within the jurisdiction of Canada's largest municipal police forces. This table illustrates how homicide rates can vary within a CMA. For example, for the Toronto and Montréal CMAs, the largest and mainly inner-city police services reported a higher rate in both 2003 and 2002 than the other more suburban police services. However, this is not always the case as shown by the Vancouver CMA in 2002.

Characteristics of homicide incidents

Half of all homicides are first-degree murders

Among the 528 homicide incidents reported by police in 2003[10], nearly half (49%) were classified as first degree murder[11]. Another 39% were second degree murder, 12% were manslaughter and 1% were infanticide (see Glossary section for definitions). These proportions have remained very consistent for more than a decade.

Homicides in correctional institutions

Each year there tend to be some homicides that occur within a provincial or federal correctional institution. In 2003, there were 8 homicides that occurred in a Canadian correctional institution, a little higher than the average of 5 each year over the previous 10-year period.

According to the methodology used by the Homicide Survey, if the institution is geographically located within the boundaries of a census metropolitan area (CMA), any homicides that occur in that facility are included in the calculation of the rate for the corresponding CMA.

For example, in 2003, there were 5 homicides that occurred within the CMA boundaries of Kingston, Ontario resulting in a rate of 3.25 per 100,000 population. However, 3 of the 5 homicides occurred within the confines of a correctional institution that was located within the CMA boundaries. Had these three homicides been excluded from the calculation of the rate, the rate for Kingston would have been much lower (1.30 per 100,000 population).

Three-quarters of homicide incidents solved by police

When police investigation leads to the identification of an accused person against whom a charge can be laid, the incident is considered to be solved. An incident may also be solved when it is "cleared otherwise" for circumstances such as the death of the accused. In general, homicide incidents tend to be solved by police at a higher rate compared to other types of violent crime. In 2003, three-quarters (75%) or 395 of the 528 homicide incidents were solved by police, similar to the rate reported in previous years. It is important to note that the process of solving a homicide is often complex and time-consuming and an incident may not be solved until after it has been reported by police to the Homicide Survey. Therefore, these data likely underestimate final police clearance rates. Should an incident later become solved, this information is updated on the Homicide Survey upon notification by police.

Most homicides occur in a private residence

Similar to previous years, almost two-thirds (63%) of homicide incidents in 2003 occurred in a private residence[12]. Among these incidents, 43% occurred in the victim's home and 32%

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8. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. In this report, the CMA boundaries have been adjusted slightly in order to more accurately reflect policing boundaries. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a single CMA.

9. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 6 homicides included in the Vancouver CMA total for 2003 and 15 homicides included in the total for 2002 all of which occurred in previous years. It should be noted that homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

10. As is the case every year, the incident count is lower than the victim count due to incidents involving multiple victims.

11. The classification of homicide incidents in this report is based upon initial police investigation. In the transition period from initial police investigation to final court disposition, the legal classification of an incident may change; however, this change may not be reflected in this report.

12. Excludes 17 incidents in which the specific location of the incident was reported by police as "unknown".

Why has Canada's homicide rate been declining?

Despite annual fluctuations, the national homicide rate has been decreasing since the mid-1970s (Figure 1). This decline is also evident at the provincial and territorial levels (Table 14) as well as among most major Canadian CMAs. No single explanation can account for the decrease in the homicide rate as research findings suggest that an inter-related set of factors may be responsible.

One factor that has been suggested to have had an impact on homicide rates is new advancements and improvements in medical technology and emergency response systems. Research in the United States has asserted that without recent developments in trauma care, the homicide rate would likely be three to five times higher[a]. Whether or not these findings are applicable to Canada remains questionable. American researchers looked at data over the past 40 years and found that, while the U.S. murder rate has gradually decreased, the rate of aggravated assault has increased. Over the past 20 years in Canada, however, not only has the homicide rate declined, but the rates of aggravated assault (-23%) and attempted murder (-38%) have experienced corresponding declines[b].

Other research has suggested that legislative gun control laws may have impacted Canada's homicide rate. Bridges (2004)[c] contends that restricting the availability of firearms may help reduce the number of firearm-related homicides. Leenaars and Lester (2001)[d] lend support for this position having found that gun legislation may affect firearm-homicide rates, particularly for incidents involving older adults and female victims. However, others question the effects of firearm legislation on violent crime, including homicide[e]. Data from the Homicide Survey show declines in the rate of firearm-related homicides since the mid-1970s (Figure 5); however, further research is required to determine if this is related to the enactment of gun legislation.

Additional research points to the effects of an aging population on the rates of homicide in Canada. A recent study by Leenaars and Lester (2004)[f] showed that when socio-economic variables (e.g. birth, divorce and unemployment) were controlled, the declining proportion of the youth population (age 15 to 24 years) was the only significant predictor of the decline in the homicide rate. However, Sprott and Cesaroni (2002) found that changes in demographics appear to account for only about 14% of Canada's decreasing homicide rate[g].

Blumstein and Rosenfeld (1998)[h] suggested that "get-tough" policies on sentencing and incarceration were responsible for the drop in the U.S. homicide rate. However, this explanation does not appear to hold true in Canada as the use of incarceration for both adults and youth has declined over the past decade[i,j].

The increased use of police personnel has also been suggested as a possible correlate to the decline in the homicide rate in the U.S. where per capita rates of police officers have increased substantially[k]. This finding does not appear to apply to Canada, however, where the rate of police officers per 100,000 population has decreased since 1975[l].

Drug market trends have also been linked to homicide trends[h]. In the U.S., the rise and fall of drug market trends (particularly crack cocaine) over the past 25 years have coincided with the rate of homicide. Similar patterns have occurred in Canada, although to a lesser extent. Persons charged with cocaine offences have fallen steadily since the early 1990s[m], fairly similar to the trend in homicide.

Looking at spousal homicides, several family and societal conditions have been explored by researchers as possible factors in the declining spousal homicide rate. Blumstein and Rosenfeld (1998) suggested that the decrease in homicides involving intimate partners was the result of a drop in domesticity[h] (defined as declining marriage rates, older age at marriage and high divorce rates). Other societal changes that have been suggested to explain the decline include the changing nature of intimate relationships, increasing gender equality, criminal and civil legislative changes, policy and procedural changes (such as specialized domestic violence courts), training of criminal justice personnel and increasing availability of resources for victims of domestic violence[n].

Forthcoming research by Pottie Bunge[o] will examine the association between declining homicide rates and a number of economic and demographic factors.

References

[a] Harris, A.R., S.H. Thomas, G.A. Fisher, and D.J. Hirsh. (2002). "Murder and medicine: The lethality of criminal assault 1960-1999". Homicide Studies. Vol. 6, No. 2, pp. 128-166.

[b] Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 2004.

[c] Bridges, F.S. (2004). "Gun control law (Bill C-17), suicide, and homicide in Canada". Psychological Reports. Vol. 94, pp. 819-826.

[d] Leenaars, A.A. and D. Lester. (2001). "The impact of gun control (Bill C-51) on homicide in Canada". Journal of Criminal Justice. Vol. 29, pp. 287-294.

[e] Mundt, R.J. (1990). "Gun control and rates of firearms violence in Canada and the United States". Canadian Journal of Criminology. Vol. 32, No. 1, pp. 137-154.

[f] Leenaars, A.A. and D. Lester. (2004). "Understanding the declining Canadian homicide rate: A test of Holinger's Relative Cohort Size Hypothesis". Death Studies. Vol. 28, pp. 263-265.

[g] Sprott, J.B. and C. Cesaroni. (2002). "Similarities in homicide trends in the United States and Canada: Guns, crack or simple demographics". Homicide Studies. Vol. 6, No. 4, pp. 348-359.

[h] Blumstein, A. and R. Rosenfeld. (1998). "Explaining recent trends in U.S. homicide rates". The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology. Vol. 88, No. 4, pp. 1175-1216.

[i] Carrière, D. (2003). "Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2001/02". Juristat. Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 23, No. 11. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

[j] Marinelli, J. "Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2001/02". Juristat. Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 24, No. 3. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

[k] Eck, J. & E. Maguire. (2000). "Have changes in policing reduced violent crime? An assessment of the evidence". In Blumstein, A. and J. Wallman (eds.) The Crime Drop in America. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. 207-265.

[l] Shankarraman, G. (2003). "Police Resources in Canada, 2003". Catalogue 85-225-XIE. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

[m] Desjardins, N. and T. Hotton. (2004). "Trends in drug offences and the role of alcohol and drugs in crime. Juristat. Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 24, No. 1. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

[n] Pottie Bunge, V. (2002). "National trends in intimate partner homicides, 1974-2000". Juristat. Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 22, No. 5. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

[o] Pottie Bunge, V. "Exploring crime patterns in Canada: Four decades of Change". Ottawa: Statistics Canada. Forthcoming.

occurred in a residence that was jointly occupied by the victim and the accused. Not surprisingly, the vast majority of family-related incidents (88%) occurred in a private residence, most commonly the home of both the victim and the accused.

The locations of the remaining incidents were distributed as follows: 26% in an open area (parking lot, street or open field); 6% in a commercial place (convenience store, gas station, bank, bar or restaurant); 3% in a public institution (high school, hospital, public transportation facility or correctional institution/halfway house); and 2% in a privately owned vehicle or a taxi.

Multiple-victim incidents remain lower than average

The vast majority of homicide incidents involve one victim; however, in 2003, about 4% of all incidents involved multiple victims. There were 19 multiple-victim incidents, one more than the previous year but less than the previous 10-year average of 29.

Eighteen of the multiple-victim incidents involved two victims and one incident involved three victims for a total of 39 victims.

The cases were cleared through the identification of an accused person for 23 of the 39 victims, a much lower clearance rate than in previous years. Among the 23 victims in which an accused was identified, 10 were killed by a family member, 10 by an acquaintance and 3 by a stranger. Most of the victims were male (69%) and all of the identified accused persons were male.

Murder-suicides drop in 2003

Like multiple-victim homicides, those that culminate in the suicide of the accused are fairly rare. In 2003, there were 29 murder-suicide incidents (involving 35 victims), 10 less than the previous 10-year average. Other than in 2000 when there were also 29 incidents, there were fewer murder-suicides in 2003 than in any of the past 25 years.

The majority of murder-suicides involved the killing of family members (77%). Of the 35 victims, 17 were killed by their husband (current or ex), 1 by a wife, 5 by a father, 2 by a mother and 2 by another family member. The eight victims (23%) that were killed by a non-family member occurred as a result of a dispute between acquaintances over a relationship, drugs or money.

The vast majority of the murder-suicide perpetrators in 2003 were male and all but one incident involved a single accused. Conversely, victims were more than twice as likely to be female (24 female victims versus 11 male victims).

Gang-related homicides increase

Gang-related homicides are those reported by police that occur as a consequence of activities involving an organized crime group or street gang (see Glossary section for definitions). Examples include killing a rival gang member over a "turf war" or a drug debt. Homicides of innocent bystanders who are killed as a result of gang-related activity are also considered to be gang-related.

Collection of gang-related information was standardized on the Homicide Survey in 1991. Between 1991 and 1998, the number of victims of gang-related homicide more than doubled from 22 to 51. Over the next four years, the number of victims remained higher than in earlier years but fairly stable.

However, in 2003, the number of victims of gang-related homicide nearly doubled again, from 46 in 2002 to 84 in 2003 (Table 5). Part of this increase was due to the Toronto Police Service having changed their definition of "gang-related homicide" to the standard definition used by the Homicide Survey[13]. As such, the Toronto Police Service reported 31 victims, almost quadruple their 2002 figure of 8.

Because of the change in reporting practices by the Toronto Police Service, the number of gang-related victims doubled in Ontario (up from 19 to 38). The number of victims reported in Quebec also rose from the previous year (up from 7 to 15), but remained lower than the 10-year average.

Due to the high involvement of drug activity among gang-related homicides, the most common motive underlying these homicides was the settling of accounts (e.g. drug debts,

disputes over money and "turf wars"), representing 51% of all gang-related homicides[14]. Revenge was the motive behind another 19% of gang-related homicides and arguments accounted for 17%. Other motives such as jealousy, frustration, financial gain, fear of apprehension and random killing accounted for the remaining 13%.

Methods used to commit homicide

Slight increase in shootings and large drop in stabbings

Over the past decade, the methods used to commit homicide have remained relatively stable (Table 6, Figure 3). In 2003, 161 victims were shot to death (29%), up by 9 victims from 2002 but lower than the previous 10-year average of 180 victims. However, there was a large drop in the number of victims stabbed to death, down from 182 victims in 2002 to 142 victims (26%) in 2003, resulting in the lowest number of fatal stabbings since 1980. Another 22% of victims were beaten, 12% were strangled or suffocated, 2% died from being shaken (Shaken Baby Syndrome) and 2% from fire (smoke, inhalation or burns). Poisoning, deaths caused by a motor vehicle and other causes (such as exposure, hypothermia or heart attack) each accounted for 1% of all homicides (Figure 4). The remaining methods used to commit homicide were reported by police as unknown (4%)[15].

Figure 3

Most common methods used to commit homicide, Canada, 1974-2003

Percentage
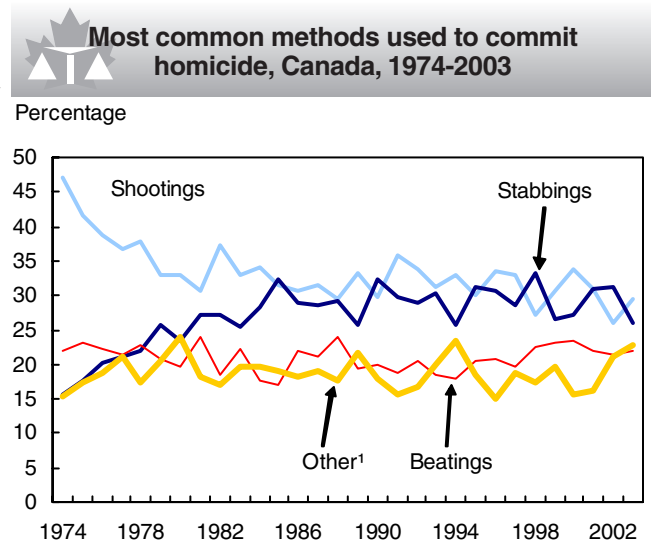
1. Other includes strangulation, poisoning, deaths caused by fire (smoke inhalation), exposure/hypothermia, Shaken Baby Syndrome, deaths caused by vehicles, heart attacks, unknown method, etc.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

13. Given the change in definition by the Toronto Police Force, 2003 gang-related homicide figures are not comparable to previous years.
14. Excludes 15 victims in which the motive was reported by police as "unknown".
15. There were 15 victims in 2002 and 6 victims in 2003 in which police in Port Coquitlam, B.C. reported method used to commit homicide as "unknown".

Figure 4

Methods used to commit homicide, Canada, 2003

Method	Percentage
Shooting	29.4
Stabbing	25.9
Beating	21.9
Strangulation/suffocation	11.5
Fire (burns/smoke inhalation)	2.2
Shaken Baby Syndrome	1.5
Poisoning	1.1
Vehicle	1.1
Other¹	1.3
Unknown	4.2

Percentage
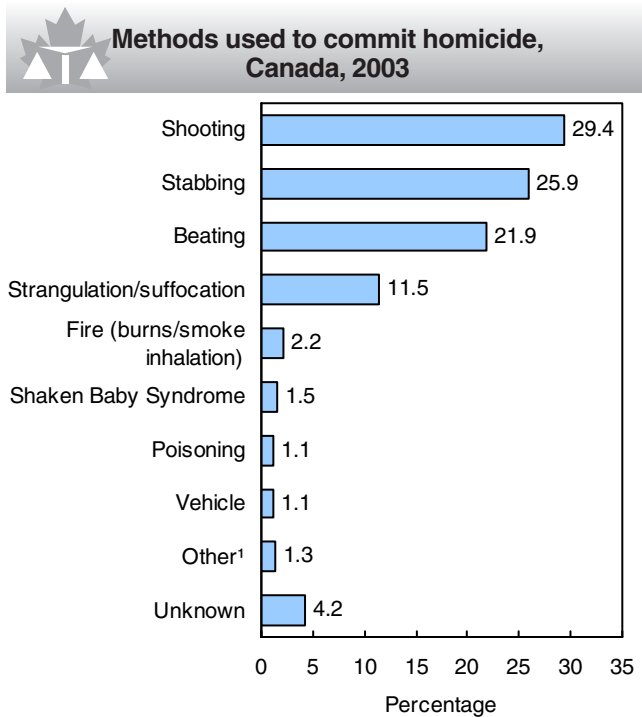
1. Other includes exposure/hypothermia, heart attack, hemorrhage and complications at birth.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Firearm Legislation

In 1969, Parliament enacted Bill C-150 and amended the *Criminal Code* which, for the first time, made it illegal to provide firearms to persons of "unsound mind" or criminals under prohibition orders. The legislation also expanded the definition of a "firearm" which, prior to 1969, only included handguns and automatic firearms, and introduced non-restricted, restricted and prohibited firearm categories.

In 1977, Parliament enacted Bill C-51 and amended the *Criminal Code* requiring individuals to obtain a Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC). The legislation also introduced a variety of provisions including regulations on safe storage and display of firearms for businesses and bona-fide gun collectors. Mandatory minimum sentences to deter the criminal use of firearms were also introduced.

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 was incorporated.

In 1995, Parliament passed Bill C-68 which created strict new penalties for the trafficking and smuggling of firearms, and tougher mandatory minimum sentences for serious offences involving firearms. All firearm owners and users are now required to obtain a firearms licence, and all firearms had to be registered by January 2003 (including non-restricted rifles and shotguns).

Figure 5 shows the firearm-related homicide rate between 1974 and 2003, indicating where legislative changes have been enacted. The information is not intended to imply a causal relationship between gun-control legislation and homicide rates.

Figure 5

Rate of firearm homicides, Canada, 1974-2003

Rate per 100,000 population

Legend: Total firearms — Rifles/shotguns¹ — Handguns — Other firearms²
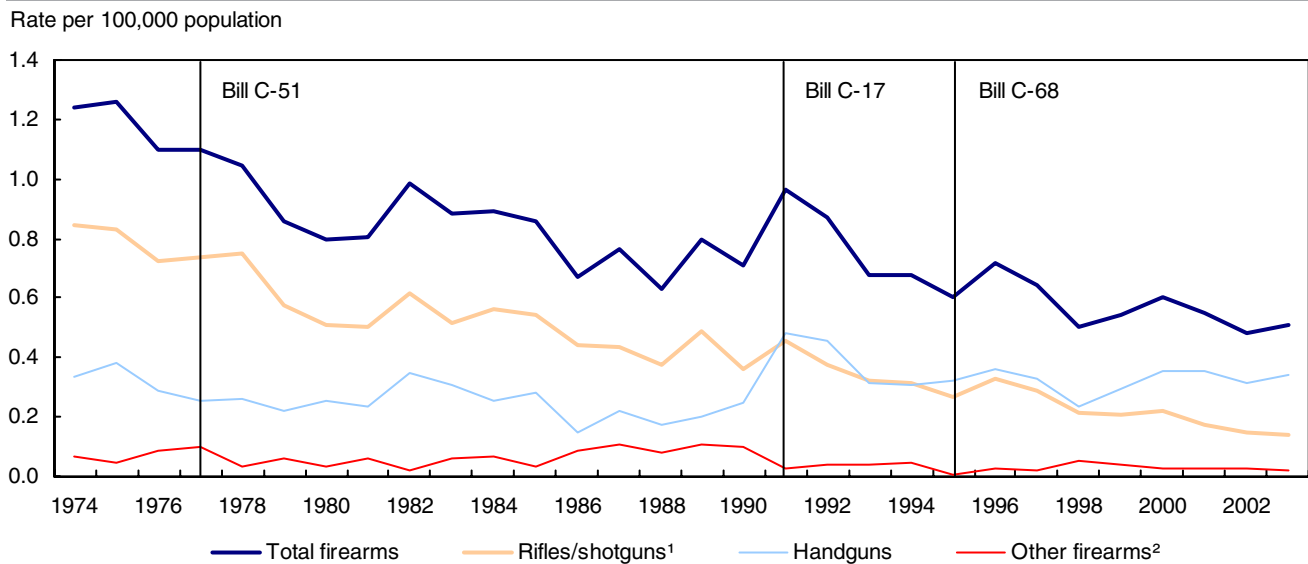
Note: See Firearm Legislation textbox for details of Bills.
1. Includes sawed-off rifles/shotguns.
2. Includes firearm-like weapons (e.g. nail gun, pellet gun) and unknown type of firearm.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Proportion of handguns used in firearm-related homicides continues to rise

Homicides actually account for a relatively small proportion of all firearm-related fatalities. According to 2001 health statistics (the latest year for which figures are available), there were a total of 842 deaths in Canada that involved a firearm. Among these, more than three-quarters (77%) were due to suicide, 18% to homicide and 3% to accidental discharge[16].

Among the 161 firearm-related homicides in 2003, 109 (68%) were committed with a handgun, 32 with a rifle/shotgun (20%), 13 (8%) with a sawed-off rifle/shotgun, 2 (1%) with a fully automatic firearm and 5 (3%) with another type of firearm (Table 7).

The type of firearm used during the commission of homicides has changed over the past three decades. Prior to 1990, rifles/shotguns were far more commonly used than handguns but, beginning in the early 1990s, the proportions began to reverse. By 2003, handguns accounted for two-thirds of all firearm-related homicides whereas rifles/shotguns accounted for about one in five.

Most firearms used to commit homicide not registered

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began to collect additional information on firearm-related homicides including: firearm registration, ownership, possession of a valid Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) or Firearms License by the accused, firearm status (lost, stolen or missing) and classification of the weapon. It is important to note that a substantial portion of firearm-related information has been reported to the Homicide Survey as "unknown" by police either because the firearm was not recovered or because investigations were on-going. The following analysis refers only to homicides where firearm registration, ownership and licensing information were known.

The available data suggest that most firearms used to commit homicide were not registered and the accused persons were not licensed firearm users. Studies in Australia and England and Wales have found similar results[17]. Between 1997 and 2003 in Canada, the registration status was known for 46% of firearm-related homicides. Of these, 86% were not registered. Four out of every five (80%) accused persons did not possess a valid FAC or Firearms License. Where ownership of the firearm could be determined by police, the accused owned the firearm in 60% of these homicides, compared to 8% that were owned by victims. For the remaining homicides, someone other than the accused or the victim owned the firearm (32%).

Accused-victim relationship

Lowest number of homicides committed by a stranger in over 25 years

As part of the Homicide Survey, information is collected on the relationship between accused persons and their victims. However, analysis of this information is limited to those homicides in which an accused person has been identified (i.e. solved cases).

Homicide data consistently indicate that victims are far more likely to be killed by someone they know than by a stranger (Figure 6). Among solved homicides in 2003, 86% of victims knew their killer (Table 8). Half (51%) of victims were killed by an acquaintance (i.e. non-family) and another one-third (34%) were killed by a family member. The remaining 14% of victims were killed by strangers. The 57 homicides (0.18 per 100,000 population) in which a stranger was identified as the perpetrator represented the lowest number in more than 25 years.

Figure 6

Homicides by accused-victim relationship, Canada, 1993-2003

Rate per 100,000 population
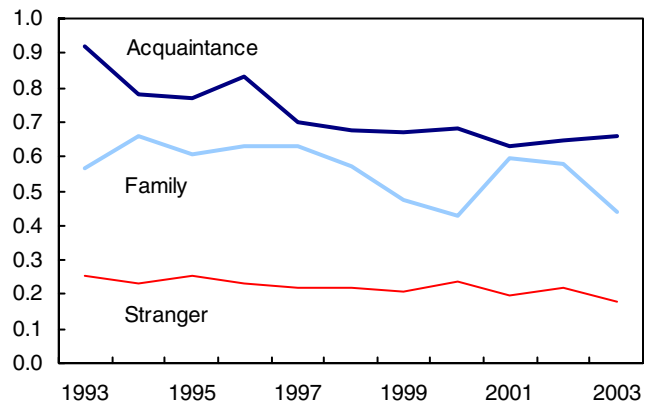
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Of those killed by an acquaintance, about half (49%) of the 209 victims knew their perpetrator on a casual basis. Another 15% of victims were killed by a close friend and 21% were killed by someone with whom they had a criminal relationship (e.g. prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients).

Large decline in family-related homicides

Family homicides are those that are committed by a spouse, parent, child, sibling or other member related to the victim by blood, marriage or adoption[18]. In 2003, there were 139 family homicides, a 24% drop from 2002 and well below the previous 10-year average (172). In fact, between 2002 and 2003, most categories of family homicides declined or remained stable. The largest declines occurred within the non-spousal category.

Spousal homicides continue to decline

Spousal homicides are those that involve persons in legal marriages, those who are separated or divorced from such

16. Statistics Canada, Canadian Vital Statistics, Death Database.
17. Mouzos, J. (2000). "The licensing and registration status of firearms used in homicide". Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice. Australian Institute of Criminology. No. 151.
18. For more information on family-related homicides, including spousal homicides, see Brzozowski, J.A. (2004). "Family Violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2004". Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE, Statistics Canada: Ottawa.

unions and those in common-law relationships (including same sex spouses). In 2003, 78 victims were killed by their spouse, slightly lower than in 2002 as well as the previous 10-year average, resulting in a decline in the spousal homicide rate for the second year in a row (-8%). Despite this decrease, spousal homicides continued to account for one out of every five solved homicides and more than half (56%) of all family homicides (Table 8). As is generally the case, the 2003 spousal homicide rate against females (0.75 per 100,000 female spouses) was about four to five times higher than that for males (0.17 per 100,000 male spouses) (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Spousal homicide rate, Canada, 1993-2003

Rate per 100,000 spouses[1]
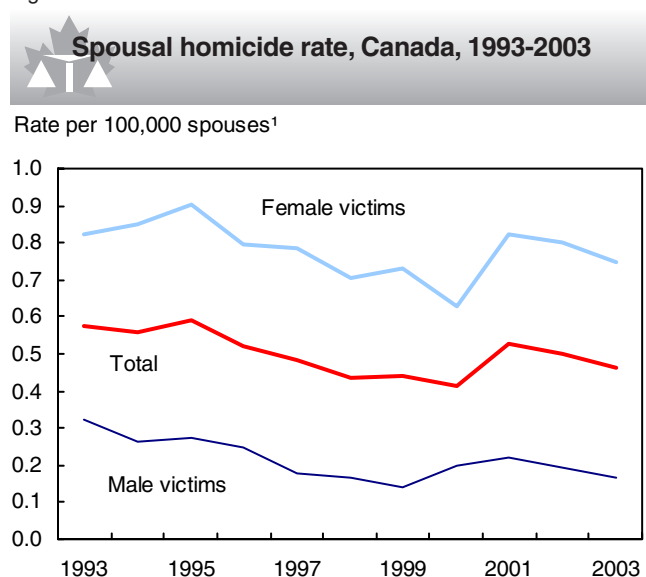
1. Spouses includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Among the provinces, the highest rate of spousal homicide in 2003 was in Saskatchewan, (1.57 homicides per 100,000 spouses) (Table 9). Saskatchewan also reported the highest average spousal homicide rate over the past 10 years. Alberta, which reported the highest rate in 2002, reported 9 spousal homicides in 2003, down from 15 the previous year. It should be noted that the small number of spousal homicides can lead to large year-to-year fluctuations.

Homicides involving other types of intimate partner relation-ships (boyfriend, girlfriend, current or estranged lovers) also dropped in 2003. There were 11 homicides committed by a non-spousal intimate partner (3 male victims and 8 female victims), 6 fewer than in 2002 and about half the average number of victims for the previous 10-year period (20). Among solved homicides (involving victims who were 15 years and older), almost two-thirds (64%) of females were killed by someone with whom they had a relationship at one point in time, either through marriage or dating compared to 7% of males. Males were far more likely to be the victims of homicide committed by acquaintances and strangers.

Lowest rate of child homicide victims in over 25 years

The number of homicides perpetrated against children (under 12 years of age) declined in 2003, reaching its lowest point in more than 25 years. Over the past 10 years, there have been, on average, 49 homicides perpetrated against children each year compared to 33 in 2003 (Table 10). Typically, infants have accounted for the highest rates of homicides among all child victims. This pattern continued in 2003 with 14 infants having been killed, a rate of about 4 per 100,000 infants.

Parents continued to be the most likely perpetrators of child homicide. Among the 33 child victims, parents were responsible for 23 homicides. Given that some incidents involve more than one parent, the actual number of accused parents in 2003 was 13 fathers (including 4 step-fathers) and 11 mothers (including 1 step-mother). Two strangers and two daycare providers were accused of child homicide, and six were unsolved.

Shaken Baby Syndrome

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS). SBS is a form of child abuse that refers to the violent shaking of a baby or young child. SBS can occur at any age but is most frequent in infants (less than one year of age) as a baby's demands, especially crying, can become the trigger for a frustrated or stressed parent or caregiver to shake the child. The outcome for infants who are violently shaken can range from no apparent effects to permanent disabling brain damage, blindness, seizures, paralysis and even death.

In 2003, police reported that 8 children (4 boys and 4 girls) were killed as a result of Shaken Baby Syndrome, the same number as in the previous two years. It is important to note that incidents of SBS that result in death may be under-counted due to missed diagnoses.

Characteristics of victims and accused[19]

Males account for the majority of accused and victims

Among solved homicides in 2003, there were 509 accused persons identified (Table 11), of which almost 9 in 10 were male, consistent with previous years. The rate of accused persons peaked at 18 to 24 years of age and steadily declined with increasing age. This pattern is particularly evident among males (Figure 8).

As with accused persons, most victims of homicide in 2003 were male (72%). There were 156 female victims, 50 fewer than in 2002 and well below the previous 10-year average of 187. In contrast, the number of male homicide victims increased by 16 in 2003.

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19. Based upon cases where Aboriginal origin was known, Aboriginal people accounted for 19% of those accused of homicide and 15% of victims. In accordance with internal guidelines, some police forces (including the RCMP and the Toronto Police Service) do not report the Aboriginal status of victims and accused persons to the Homicide Survey. In other cases, this information was not known to police at the time data were reported to the Homicide Survey. In 2003, Aboriginal origin was reported by police for 56% of victims and 55% of accused.

Figure 8

Accused homicide rates by age group and sex, Canada, 2003
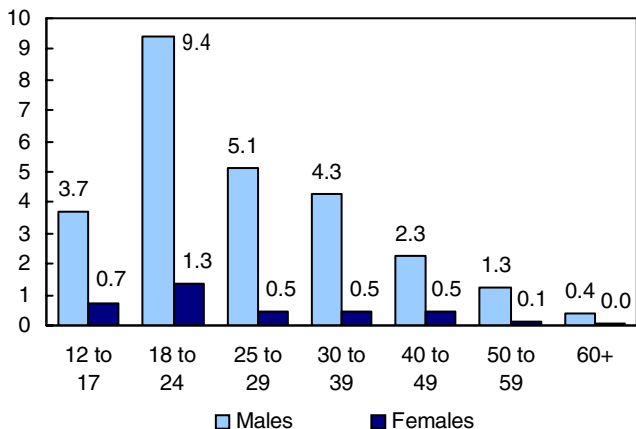
Rate per 100,000 population

Source: *Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.*

Male victimization peaked at age 18 to 24 years; however, female victimization peaked at age 25 to 29. After 30 years of age, the risk of becoming a victim of homicide generally declined for both sexes (Figure 9). The rate of victimization among male seniors (age 60 and older) was four times that of female seniors.

The age at which male and female victimization peaked reflects differences in the types of accused-victim relationships. Males are more typically victimized by non-intimate acquaintances whereas females are more typically victimized by their current/ex intimate partners.

Figure 9

Victim homicide rates by age group and sex, Canada, 2003
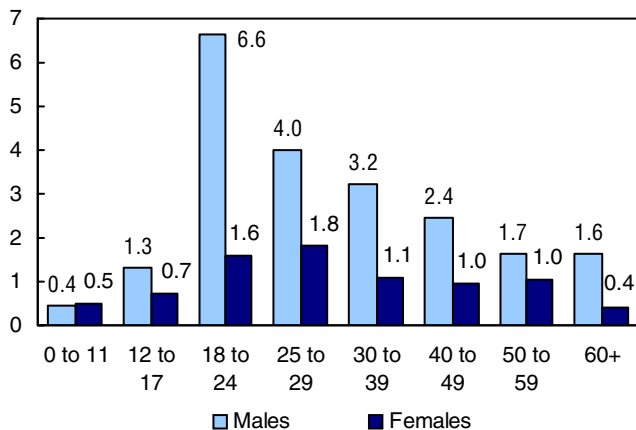
Rate per 100,000 population

Source: *Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.*

Two-thirds of adult accused and half of all adult victims had a criminal record

In 2003, more than two-thirds (69%) of adults (18 years or older) accused of homicide had a Canadian criminal record[20]. Among those adults with a criminal history, two-thirds had a prior conviction for a violent offence: 5 for homicide, 49 for robbery and 149 for another type of violent offence. Another 16% of adults with a criminal record had a prior conviction for a property offence, 6% for a drug conviction and 12% for another *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offence.

Among the 57 youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide in 2003, 39% had a criminal history. Half of all youth with a criminal history had a conviction for a violent offence (none of which were for homicide). Another 36% had a prior conviction for a property offence, 5% for a drug conviction and 9% for another *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offence.

Half (52%) of all adult homicide victims (18 years or older) had a Canadian criminal record[21]. Half (51%) of these victims had a prior violent conviction: 8 for homicide, 27 for robbery and 91 for another violent offence. Six of the eight homicides committed against victims who had a previous homicide conviction were gang-related. Another 15% of adult victims with a criminal record had a prior conviction for a property offence, 11% for a drug conviction and 24% for another *Criminal Code* or federal/ provincial statute offence.

Of the 26 youth victims (12 to 17 years), 4 (15%) had a previous criminal history.

Youth homicide

Homicides committed by youth rise

In 2003, there were 57 youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide, 15 more than in 2002. This is the second consecutive annual increase since the low reached in 2001 and higher than the previous 10-year average of 49 (Table 12). The rate of youth homicide in 2003 returned to levels seen during the mid-to-late 1990s (Figure 10).

The rise in the overall number and rate was the result of an increase in young males accused of homicide. In 2003, there were 48 male youth accused of homicide, 15 more than in 2002, resulting in a 45% increase in the rate (from 2.6 per 100,000 male youth to 3.7).

Youth represented about 11% of all those accused of homicide, somewhat higher than the average of 9% seen over the previous decade. As is the case historically, youth were more likely than adults to kill other youth and young adults. Of the solved homicides committed by youth in 2003, 54% of the victims were between 12 and 24 years compared to 27% of homicides committed by adults.

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20. *Excludes 8 accused in which police reported previous conviction for criminal activity as "unknown".*
21. *Excludes 13 victims in which police reported previous conviction for criminal activities as "unknown".*

Figure 10

Youth (12-17 years) accused of homicide, Canada, 1993-2003

Rate per 100,000 youth

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

Of the 41 homicides committed by youth in 2003, 9 were reported by police to be gang-related, representing almost one out of every five youth homicides. This number is up from an average of 3 over the previous 10 years.

Precipitating factors

Most accused and victims were under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol

Alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants are known to play a role in the commission of many crimes including homicide[22]. Among cases where it was known whether alcohol or drugs were a factor[23], police reported that the majority of victims (61%) and accused persons (71%) were under the influence at the time of the homicide. Males, as both victims and accused persons, were more likely to have used alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the homicide compared to their female counterparts.

One-third of homicides motivated by an argument

According to police, homicides that were incited by an argument or quarrel accounted for about one-third (34%) of incidents[24]. Another 30% of homicides were associated with feelings of frustration, despair, revenge and/or jealousy and a further one in four incidents (25%) was motivated by financial gain or settling of accounts. Six incidents were reported by police to be random. There were no homicides in 2003 that were reported to have been motivated by hatred or political terrorism.

One in ten accused reported by police to have a mental health disorder

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on any suspected mental or developmental disorders (such as schizophrenia, manic depression or developmental delays) among accused persons. This information reflects police perceptions as to the mental condition of the accused person and is not necessarily supported by a medical or health professional's assessment. As such, it should be interpreted with some caution.

Excluding cases in which mental status of the accused was unknown[25], police suspected the presence of a mental or developmental disorder among 10% of accused persons in 2003, slightly lower than the percentage reported each year since 1997.

Half of all homicide incidents occurred during another offence

Half (49%) of the homicide incidents in 2003 in which data were available occurred during the commission of another offence that led to the homicide[26]. Of these 199 incidents, the majority (148) were committed at the same time as another violent offence: 71 during an assault, 40 during a robbery, 7 during a sexual assault, 6 during a kidnapping/abduction, 4 as the result of stalking and 20 during other violent offences. Eight other homicide incidents occurred as a result of arson, 12 occurred as a result of other property offences (e.g. break and enter, theft) and 31 resulted from other types of criminal offences.

At-risk occupations

Some people are at greater risk for violence and homicide simply because of the nature of their profession. The Homicide Survey collects information on homicides that are related to a victim's occupation (legal or illegal). It is important to note that the following analysis only includes those victims whose deaths resulted from their profession, either partly or entirely. For instance, if a prostitute was killed because of a domestic dispute that was not related to his/her work, then this homicide would not be counted in the prostitution-related statistics.

In 2003, police reported 11 prostitutes killed as a result of their profession. This figure was slightly higher than the average of eight over the past 10 years due to six homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam, B.C. in previous years being reported by police in 2003.

Six victims were killed during the course of legal employment: a bouncer, a mechanic, a building superintendent, a retail sales clerk, a gold miner and a taxi driver. There were no police officers murdered in 2003.

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22. R.N. Parker & K. Auerhahn (1999). Drugs, alcohol and homicide: issues in theory and research. Homicide: A Sourcebook of Social Research. Edited by M.D. Smith and M.A. Zahn, Thousand Oaks, Sage Publications. pp. 176-191.
23. Excludes 171 victims and 184 accused persons where consumption of alcohol and/or drugs was reported by police as "unknown".
24. Excludes 82 incidents in which motive was reported by police as "unknown".
25. Excludes 153 accused for which mental health status was reported police as "unknown".
26. Excludes 118 incidents in which an associated or related offence was reported by police as "unknown".

Glossary of terms

Accused

An accused person is someone against whom enough information exists to lay a charge in connection with a homicide incident. For the purposes of this report, the term "perpetrator" is used interchangeably with "accused".

Homicide

A 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 non-culpable (not an offence and, therefore, not included in the Homicide Survey). Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide and accidental or justifiable homicide (e.g. self-defence) are not included.

Homicide count

The homicide count reflects the number of homicide victims that become known to police and subsequently reported to the Homicide Survey in a given year. Since some homicides become known to police long after they occur, there are generally a few homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years.

Homicide rate

This technique standardizes data to permit comparisons over time and for different population sizes. The homicide rate is based on the number of victims per 100,000 population.

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 accused persons, 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 count due to incidents involving multiple victims.

Infanticide

Infanticide occurs when a female wilfully causes the death of her newly-born child (under one year of age), if her mind is considered disturbed from the effects of giving birth or from lactation.

Manslaughter

Manslaughter is culpable homicide that is not murder or infanticide. It is generally considered to be a homicide committed in the heat of passion caused by sudden provocation.

Murder

A murder occurs when a person intentionally, by a wilful act or omission, 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. treason, kidnapping, hijacking, sexual assault, robbery and arson).

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

Organized crime group

An organized crime group consists of a static or fluid group of (two or more) individuals who communicate, co-operate, and conspire within an ongoing collective or network; and 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.

Street gang

A street gang is defined as a more or less structured group of adolescents, young adults and/or adults who use intimidation and violence to commit criminal acts on a regular basis, in order to obtain power and recognition and/or control specific areas of criminal activities.

Methodology

The Homicide Survey began collecting police-reported data on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada in 1961. Until 1974, cases of manslaughter and infanticide were not included in the survey. However, while the detailed characteristics of the manslaughter and infanticide incidents prior to 1974 are not available, the counts are available from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and are included in the historical aggregate totals.

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire, which is then forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. This questionnaire remained virtually unmodified 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.

The total count of homicides recorded each year equals the total number of homicides *known* by police departments and *reported* to the Homicide Survey during that year. Therefore, given that some homicides only become known to police long after they occur, some incidents that actually occurred in previous years will be counted in the year they are reported by police to the Homicide Survey.

Information on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). Accused characteristics are updated as homicide cases are solved and new information is submitted to the Homicide Survey. In incidents where there are multiple accused persons, only the relationship between the victim and the closest accused is recorded.

Table 2

Homicides by province/territory

Province/territory	2003[1]			2002[2r]			Average 1993-2002	
	Population[3]	Number of victims	Rate[4]	Population[3]	Number of victims	Rate[4]	Number of victims	Rate[4]
Newfoundland & Labrador	519,570	5	0.96	519,270	2	0.39	5	0.88
Prince Edward Island	137,781	1	0.73	136,998	1	0.73	1	0.96
Nova Scotia	936,025	8	0.85	934,392	9	0.96	17	1.79
New Brunswick	750,594	8	1.07	750,183	9	1.20	10	1.31
Quebec	7,487,169	100	1.34	7,443,491	118	1.59	139	1.90
Ontario	12,238,300	178	1.45	12,096,627	178	1.47	175	1.55
Manitoba	1,162,776	43	3.70	1,155,492	36	3.12	32	2.83
Saskatchewan	994,843	41	4.12	995,490	27	2.71	26	2.55
Alberta	3,153,723	63	2.00	3,114,390	70	2.25	61	2.13
British Columbia[5]	4,146,580	93	2.24	4,114,981	126	3.06	109	2.79
Yukon	31,060	1	3.22	30,123	0	0.00	2	4.90
Northwest Territories[6]	41,872	4	9.55	41,434	4	9.65	4	6.42
Nunavut[7]	29,384	3	10.21	28,740	2	6.96	3	8.99
Canada	**31,629,677**	**548**	**1.73**	**31,361,611**	**582**	**1.86**	**581**	**1.94**

[r] revised
1. A total of 23 homicides were reported and included in 2003 but occurred in previous years: 1 in Newfoundland; 1 in New Brunswick; 6 in Quebec; 1 in Ontario; 3 in Alberta and 11 in British Columbia.
2. A total of 32 homicides were reported and included in 2002 but occurred in previous years: 2 in Nova Scotia, 2 in Quebec, 13 in Ontario and 15 in British Columbia.
3. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.
   2002: Updated postcensal estimates.
   2003: Preliminary postcensal estimates.
4. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.
5. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 6 homicides included in 2003 and 15 homicides included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.
6. Includes Nunavut prior to 1999.
7. The average in Nunavut is calculated from 1999-2002.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

Homicides by Census Metropolitan Area

Census Metropolitan Area	2003[1]			2002[2r]		Average 1993-2002	
	Population[3]	Number of victims	Rate[4,5]	Number of victims	Rate[4,5]	Number of victims	Rate[4,5]
500,000+ population							
Toronto	5,118,992	95	1.86	90	1.79	78	1.71
Montréal	3,586,221	57	1.59	66	1.86	76	2.24
Vancouver[6]	2,126,111	44	2.07	69	3.28	54	2.78
Calgary[7]	1,023,666	11	1.07	15	1.49	15	1.62
Edmonton[7]	997,938	22	2.20	27	2.73	23	2.50
Ottawa[8, 9]	866,621	10	1.15	8	0.93	10	1.28
Québec	709,323	3	0.42	3	0.43	10	1.40
Winnipeg	688,746	18	2.61	23	3.37	19	2.85
Hamilton	682,741	9	1.32	13	1.92	12	1.81
Total	**15,800,359**	**269**	**1.70**	**314**	**2.01**	**296**	**2.04**
100,000 - 499,999 population							
Kitchener	470,022	1	0.21	3	0.65	5	1.14
London	464,076	8	1.72	4	0.87	5	1.04
St. Catharines-Niagara	429,949	6	1.40	8	1.87	6	1.33
Halifax	377,932	3	0.79	5	1.34	7	2.12
Windsor	329,241	9	2.73	7	2.15	6	2.07
Victoria	323,592	5	1.55	3	0.95	6	2.07
Oshawa	319,935	1	0.31	0	0.00	2	0.84
Gatineau[10]	276,933	3	1.08	6	2.21	4	1.56
Saskatoon	241,391	8	3.31	8	3.35	6	2.55
Regina	197,734	10	5.06	4	2.02	5	2.56
St. John's	177,843	2	1.12	1	0.57	2	1.31
Greater Sudbury	160,113	1	0.62	2	1.24	3	1.88
Abbotsford[11]	157,720	8	5.07	4	2.58	2	1.30
Kingston[11, 12]	153,707	5	3.25	3	1.97	3	1.65
Saguenay	148,061	0	0.00	1	0.67	1	0.73
Sherbrooke	145,766	0	0.00	1	0.70	2	1.28
Saint John	144,752	1	0.69	2	1.37	2	1.41
Trois-Rivières	144,262	0	0.00	2	1.39	2	1.39
Thunder Bay	124,628	1	0.80	1	0.80	3	2.41
Total	**4,787,657**	**72**	**1.50**	**65**	**1.37**	**69**	**1.59**
CMA totals	**20,588,016**	**341**	**1.66**	**379**	**1.86**	**365**	**1.94**
< 100,000 population[7, 13]	**11,041,661**	**207**	**1.87**	**203**	**1.84**	**216**	**1.94**
Canada	**31,629,677**	**548**	**1.73**	**582**	**1.86**	**581**	**1.94**

[r]   revised
1.   A total of 23 homicides were reported and included in 2003 but occurred in previous years: 1 in St. John's; 1 in Saint John; 1 in Québec; 1 in Edmonton; 6 in Vancouver and 13 in areas < 100,000 population.
2.   A total of 32 homicides were reported and included in 2002 but occurred in previous years: 1 in Halifax; 2 in Montréal; 5 in Toronto; 1 in Hamilton; 1 in London; 2 in Windsor; 15 in Vancouver and 5 in areas < 100,000 population.
3.   Population estimates have been adjusted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to correspond to police boundaries. Note that a CMA usually comprises more than one police force.
4.   Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.
5.   Population estimates are supplied by Statistics Canada, Demography Division as of July 1st. Estimates from 1993 to 1995 are based upon 1991 Census boundaries. Estimates from 1996 to the most current year have been revised and adjusted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to correspond to police boundaries.
6.   As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 6 homicides included in the Vancouver CMA total for 2003 and 15 homicides included in the total for 2002 all of which occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.
7.   Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2002.
8.   Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
9.   Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2003.
10.   Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
11.   Abbotsford and Kingston became CMAs in 2001. Average number and rate are calculated from 2001 to 2002.
12.   Includes 3 homicides that occurred in a correctional institution and 1 that occurred in a halfway house in 2003.
13.   Includes 4 homicides that occurred in a correctional institution in 2003.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

Homicides occurring within the jurisdiction of the 30 largest municipal police services[1]

Police service	2003			2002[r]		
	Population[2]	Number of victims	Rate[3]	Population[2]	Number of victims	Rate[3]
Toronto CMA Police Services[4]						
Toronto Police	2,611,661	66	2.53	2,615,390	65	2.49
Peel Regional Police	1,063,393	16	1.50	1,025,882	9	0.88
York Regional Police	851,705	10	1.17	807,056	12	1.49
Durham Regional Police[5]	547,759	3	0.55	537,795	1	0.19
Halton Regional Police[5]	413,454	3	0.73	402,373	1	0.25
Montreal CMA Police Services[4]						
Montréal Police	1,871,774	41	2.19	1,866,371	48	2.57
Longueuil Police	383,396	4	1.04	381,712	6	1.57
Laval Police	359,707	4	1.11	355,244	2	0.56
Vancouver CMA Police Services[4]						
Vancouver Police	569,814	19	3.33	570,186	13	2.28
Surrey (RCMP) Police	390,145	5	1.28	378,173	10	2.64
Burnaby (RCMP) Police	205,261	2	0.97	203,665	10	4.91
Richmond (RCMP) Police	174,201	1	0.57	173,545	5	2.88
Other Large Municipal Police Services						
Calgary Police	936,270	8	0.85	922,614	15	1.63
Ottawa Police	823,608	10	1.21	816,961	8	0.98
Edmonton Police	702,379	17	2.42	694,457	24	3.46
Winnipeg Police	644,417	18	2.79	639,741	22	3.44
Québec Police	524,054	3	0.57	521,646	2	0.38
Hamilton Regional Police	516,776	8	1.55	514,220	11	2.14
Waterloo Regional Police	470,022	1	0.21	463,897	3	0.65
Niagara Regional Police	429,949	6	1.40	428,612	8	1.87
London Police	355,169	7	1.97	353,116	3	0.85
Gatineau-Métro Police	226,888	3	1.32	222,977	4	1.79
Windsor Police	221,091	9	4.07	219,513	7	3.19
Saskatoon Police	202,542	8	3.95	201,369	6	2.98
Halifax Regional Police	211,607	3	1.42	209,256	3	1.43
Regina Police	181,167	10	5.52	181,265	4	2.21
St. John's (RNC) Police	177,843	2	1.12	175,440	1	0.57
Greater Sudbury Police	160,113	1	0.62	160,735	2	1.24
Saguenay Police	148,061	0	0.00	149,425	1	0.67
Sherbrooke Regional Police	145,766	0	0.00	143,866	1	0.70

[r]   revised
1. Data in this table includes all homicides occurring within the jurisdiction of each police force.
2. Police Service population estimates were derived from 2003 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2002 updated postcensal estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.
3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.
4. The police services listed under the Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver CMA's do not represent all of the police services in each CMA. In some cases, only portions of a police service are included in the CMA.
5.   Note that 60% of the crime handled by Halton Regional Police and 35% of the crime handled by Durham Regional Police fall within Toronto CMA boundaries.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 5

Gang-related homicides, Canada, 1993-2003

	Total number of incidents	Total number of victims	Victims of gang-related homicide as a % of all homicides
1993	12	13	2.1
1994	23	24	4.0
1995	19	21	3.6
1996	26	29	4.6
1997	27	28	4.8
1998	48	51	9.1
1999	44	45	8.4
2000	65	72	13.2
2001	59	61	11.0
2002[r]	44	46	7.9
2003[1]	80	84	15.3
Average 1993-1997	21	23	3.5
Average 1998-2002	52	55	9.4

[r] revised
1. In 2003, the Toronto Police Service changed their definition of "gang-related" homicide to be consistent with the national standard used by the Homicide Survey. This resulted in 31 victims being reported, almost quadruple their 2002 figure of 8.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 6

Methods used to commit homicide, Canada, 1993-2003

Year	Shooting Number of victims	Shooting Percent	Stabbing Number of victims	Stabbing Percent	Beating Number of victims	Beating Percent	Strangulation/ Suffocation Number of victims	Strangulation/ Suffocation Percent	Shaken Baby Syndrome[1] Number of victims	Shaken Baby Syndrome[1] Percent	Fire (smoke inhalation, burns) Number of victims	Fire (smoke inhalation, burns) Percent
1993	195	31.1	191	30.5	116	18.5	77	12.3	...	...	17	2.7
1994	196	32.9	154	25.8	106	17.8	84	14.1	...	...	17	2.9
1995	176	29.9	183	31.1	121	20.6	70	11.9	...	...	20	3.4
1996	212	33.4	195	30.7	132	20.8	59	9.3	...	...	8	1.3
1997	193	32.9	168	28.7	115	19.6	53	9.0	6	1.0	30	5.1
1998	151	27.1	186	33.3	125	22.4	61	10.9	6	1.1	12	2.2
1999	165	30.7	143	26.6	125	23.2	55	10.2	7	1.3	11	2.0
2000	184	33.7	149	27.3	128	23.4	38	7.0	13	2.4	4	0.7
2001	171	30.9	171	30.9	122	22.1	47	8.5	8	1.4	8	1.4
2002r	152	26.1	182	31.3	125	21.5	66	11.3	8	1.4	8	1.4
2003	161	29.4	142	25.9	120	21.9	63	11.5	8	1.5	12	2.2

Year	Poisoning Number of victims	Poisoning Percent	Vehicle[1] Number of victims	Vehicle[1] Percent	Other[2] Number of victims	Other[2] Percent	Unknown[3] Number of victims	Unknown[3] Percent	Total Number of victims	Total Percent
1993	6	1.0	...	...	21	3.3	4	0.6	627	100.0
1994	11	1.8	...	...	22	3.7	6	1.0	596	100.0
1995	6	1.0	...	...	6	1.0	6	1.0	588	100.0
1996	6	0.9	...	...	12	1.9	11	1.7	635	100.0
1997	8	1.4	6	1.0	2	0.3	5	0.9	586	100.0
1998	6	1.1	3	0.5	2	0.4	6	1.1	558	100.0
1999	5	0.9	13	2.4	6	1.1	8	1.5	538	100.0
2000	4	0.7	14	2.6	5	0.9	7	1.3	546	100.0
2001	8	1.4	5	0.9	5	0.9	8	1.4	553	100.0
2002r	3	0.5	6	1.0	9	1.5	23	4.0	582	100.0
2003	6	1.1	6	1.1	7	1.3	23	4.2	548	100.0

... figures not applicable
r revised
1. Data became available in 1997.
2. Other includes exposure/hypothermia, heart attack, hemorrhage, complications at birth, starvation/dehydration and, prior to 1997, Shaken Baby Syndrome and deaths caused by vehicles.
3. Includes 15 victims in 2002 and 6 victims in 2003 in which police in Port Coquitlam, B.C. reported the method used to commit homicide as "unknown".
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 7

Homicides involving firearms, Canada, 1993-2003

Year	Type of Firearm Handgun Number of victims	Handgun % of firearm homicides	Rifle/Shotgun Number of victims	Rifle/Shotgun % of firearm homicides	Fully automatic firearm Number of victims	Fully automatic firearm % of firearm homicides	Sawed-off rifle/ shotgun Number of victims	Sawed-off rifle/ shotgun % of firearm homicides	Other firearms[1] Number of victims	Other firearms[1] % of firearm homicides	Total Number of victims	Total Homicides involving firearms as a % of total homicides
1993	91	46.7	75	38.5	11	5.6	17	8.7	1	0.5	195	31.1
1994	90	45.9	66	33.7	14	7.1	26	13.3	0	0.0	196	32.9
1995	95	54.0	64	36.4	2	1.1	15	8.5	0	0.0	176	29.9
1996	107	50.5	81	38.2	8	3.8	16	7.5	0	0.0	212	33.4
1997	99	51.3	77	39.9	2	1.0	10	5.2	5	2.6	193	32.9
1998	70	46.4	51	33.8	12	7.9	14	9.3	4	2.6	151	27.1
1999	89	53.9	58	35.2	6	3.6	6	3.6	6	3.6	165	30.7
2000	108	58.7	57	31.0	4	2.2	11	6.0	4	2.2	184	33.7
2001	110	64.3	46	26.9	3	1.8	7	4.1	5	2.9	171	30.9
2002r	98	64.5	40	26.3	3	2.0	6	3.9	5	3.3	152	26.1
2003	109	67.7	32	19.9	2	1.2	13	8.1	5	3.1	161	29.4
Average 1993-2002	96	53.6	62	34.0	7	3.6	13	7.0	3	1.8	180	30.9

r revised
1. Other firearms include firearm-like weapons (e.g. nail gun, pellet gun) and unknown type of firearm.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 8

Solved homicides by accused-victim relationship[1], Canada

Relationship type	2003		2002[r]		Average 1993-2002	
(Victims killed by)	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent
Family relationship						
Spousal relationship						
Husband (legal and common-law)	40	9.8	46	10.1	46	10.0
Husband (separated and divorced)	24	5.9	21	4.6	17	3.7
Wife (legal and common-law)	12	2.9	14	3.1	15	3.2
Wife (separated and divorced)	2	0.5	2	0.4	2	0.4
(Ex) Same sex spouse[2]	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.2
Total spousal	**78**	**19.2**	**84**	**18.5**	**80**	**17.4**
Non-spousal relationship						
Father	19	4.7	28	6.2	28	6.1
Mother	11	2.7	8	1.8	15	3.2
Child	14	3.4	26	5.7	19	4.2
Sibling	6	1.5	11	2.4	9	2.0
Other family relation[3]	11	2.7	25	5.5	20	4.3
Total non-spousal	**61**	**15.0**	**98**	**21.5**	**92**	**19.8**
Total family	**139**	**34.2**	**182**	**40.0**	**172**	**37.2**
Acquaintance						
(Ex) boyfriend/girlfriend/other intimate	11	2.7	17	3.7	20	4.4
Close friend	32	7.9	29	6.4	30	6.5
Neighbour	12	1.5	6	1.3	19	4.0
Authority figure[2]	2	0.5	2	0.4	3	0.6
Business relationship (legal)	7	2.5	10	2.2	11	2.4
Criminal relationship[4]	43	13.5	55	12.1	38	8.2
Casual acquaintance	102	20.6	84	18.5	99	21.5
Total acquaintance	**209**	**51.4**	**203**	**44.6**	**219**	**47.3**
Stranger	57	14.0	69	15.2	68	14.7
Unknown relationship	2	0.5	1	0.2	3	0.7
Total solved homicides	**407**	**100.0**	**455**	**100.0**	**462**	**100.0**
Unsolved homicides	**141**	…	**127**	…	**119**	…
Total homicides	**548**	…	**582**	…	**581**	…

… figures not applicable
[r] revised
1. Includes only those homicides in which there were known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.
2. Authority figure and same sex spouse were added to the survey in 1997; therefore, the average is calculated from 1997 to 2002.
3. Other family relation includes nieces, nephews, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, etc. related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption.
4. Criminal relationships include prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 9

Victims of spousal homicide by region

Region	2003 Number	2003 Rate[1]	2002[r] Number	2002[r] Rate[1]	Average 1993-2002 Number	Average 1993-2002 Rate[1]
Atlantic	4	0.31	1	0.08	5	0.37
Quebec	16	0.40	24	0.60	17	0.44
Ontario	21	0.32	25	0.39	28	0.46
Manitoba	4	0.67	2	0.34	3	0.55
Saskatchewan	8	1.57	4	0.79	4	0.76
Alberta	9	0.54	15	0.91	10	0.63
British Columbia	14	0.62	13	0.58	13	0.59
Territories[2]	2	…	0	…	1	…
Canada	**78**	**0.46**	**84**	**0.50**	**80**	**0.50**

… figures not applicable
[r] revised
1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 spouses (includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older). Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.
    1993-1995: Revised intercensal estimates, adjusted for net undercoverage.
    1996-2000: Final intercensal estimates.
    2001: Final postcensal estimates.
    2002: Updated postcensal estimates.
    2003: Preliminary postcensal estimates.
2. Rates are not calculated for the Territories due to small populations.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 10

Children (<12 years) killed by parents, Canada, 1993-2003

Year	Total number of child victims	Number of child victims killed by parents	Parent-child homicides as a % of all solved homicides	Actual number of accused in parent-child homicides Father	Step-father	Mother	Step-mother
1993	46	32	6.4	13	4	14	0
1994[r]	59	43	8.8	20	4	19	0
1995[r]	53	36	7.4	19	2	12	1
1996[r]	53	41	8.2	20	6	15	0
1997[r]	65	53	11.4	19	4	23	1
1998[r]	55	47	10.6	22	4	16	1
1999[r]	36	26	6.3	13	3	9	0
2000	39	27	6.5	11	4	9	0
2001[r]	39	30	6.8	12	2	11	1
2002[r]	44	31	6.8	14	4	9	0
2003	33	23	5.7	9	4	10	1
Average 1993-2002	49	37	7.9	16	4	14	0

[r] revised
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 11

Victims of homicide and accused persons, by sex, Canada, 1993-2003

Year	Victims					Accused				
	Males		Females		Total	Males		Females		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1993	419	66.8	208	33.2	627	485	87.4	70	12.6	555
1994[1]	396	66.6	199	33.4	595	510	88.4	67	11.6	577
1995	393	66.8	195	33.2	588	501	87.3	73	12.7	574
1996	435	68.5	200	31.5	635	494	88.7	63	11.3	557
1997	381	65.0	205	35.0	586	441	85.5	75	14.5	516
1998	381	68.3	177	31.7	558	464	87.7	65	12.3	529
1999	365	67.8	173	32.2	538	439	90.1	48	9.9	487
2000	397	72.7	149	27.3	546	419	88.2	56	11.8	475
2001	392	70.9	161	29.1	553	440	87.3	64	12.7	504
2002	376	64.6	206	35.4	582	470	89.2	57	10.8	527
2003	392	71.5	156	28.5	548	448	88.0	61	12.0	509
Average 1993-2002	394	67.8	187	32.2	581	466	88.0	64	12.0	530

1. Excludes 1 victim in which sex was reported by police as "unknown".
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 12

Youth (12-17 years) accused of homicide, Canada, 1993-2003

Year	Number of accused			Rate per 100,000 youth population[1]			Total youth as % of total accused
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1993	34	3	37	2.84	0.27	1.59	6.7
1994[r]	53	6	59	4.38	0.52	2.50	10.2
1995	53	15	68	4.33	1.29	2.85	11.8
1996	48	3	51	3.87	0.26	2.11	9.2
1997	44	11	55	3.51	0.93	2.25	10.7
1998	54	3	57	4.27	0.25	2.32	10.8
1999	36	9	45	2.84	0.75	1.82	9.2
2000	38	5	43	2.99	0.42	1.74	9.1
2001[r]	27	5	32	2.11	0.41	1.28	6.3
2002	33	9	42	2.56	0.73	1.67	8.0
2003	48	9	57	3.70	0.73	2.25	11.2
Average 1993-2002	42	7	49	3.36	0.58	2.01	9.2

[r] revised
1. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.
   1993-1995: Revised intercensal estimates, adjusted for net undercoverage.
   1996-2000: Final intercensal estimates.
   2001: Final postcensal estimates.
   2002: Updated postcensal estimates.
   2003: Preliminary postcensal estimates.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr><th colspan="15">Number of homicides, by province/territory, 1961-2003</th></tr>
<tr><th>Year</th><th>N.L.</th><th>P.E.I.</th><th>N.S.</th><th>N.B.</th><th>Que.</th><th>Ont.</th><th>Man.</th><th>Sask.</th><th>Alta.</th><th>B.C.[1]</th><th>Yukon</th><th>N.W.T.[2]</th><th>Nvt.</th><th>Canada</th></tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr><td>1961</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>52</td><td>89</td><td>15</td><td>14</td><td>18</td><td>34</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>…</td><td>233</td></tr>
<tr><td>1962</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>62</td><td>76</td><td>19</td><td>13</td><td>18</td><td>55</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>…</td><td>265</td></tr>
<tr><td>1963</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>69</td><td>76</td><td>16</td><td>8</td><td>27</td><td>35</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>…</td><td>249</td></tr>
<tr><td>1964</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>13</td><td>5</td><td>52</td><td>81</td><td>16</td><td>20</td><td>25</td><td>32</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>…</td><td>253</td></tr>
<tr><td>1965</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>10</td><td>5</td><td>63</td><td>77</td><td>15</td><td>15</td><td>20</td><td>57</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>…</td><td>277</td></tr>
<tr><td>1966</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>9</td><td>6</td><td>56</td><td>71</td><td>17</td><td>12</td><td>27</td><td>48</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>…</td><td>250</td></tr>
<tr><td>1967</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>10</td><td>5</td><td>75</td><td>114</td><td>15</td><td>25</td><td>38</td><td>47</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>…</td><td>338</td></tr>
<tr><td>1968</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>9</td><td>5</td><td>102</td><td>104</td><td>28</td><td>23</td><td>25</td><td>73</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>…</td><td>375</td></tr>
<tr><td>1969</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>12</td><td>1</td><td>126</td><td>111</td><td>28</td><td>33</td><td>23</td><td>50</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>…</td><td>391</td></tr>
<tr><td>1970</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>15</td><td>8</td><td>141</td><td>115</td><td>29</td><td>24</td><td>42</td><td>78</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>…</td><td>467</td></tr>
<tr><td>1971</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>16</td><td>10</td><td>124</td><td>151</td><td>33</td><td>29</td><td>45</td><td>61</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>…</td><td>473</td></tr>
<tr><td>1972</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>14</td><td>11</td><td>157</td><td>141</td><td>36</td><td>28</td><td>37</td><td>88</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>…</td><td>521</td></tr>
<tr><td>1973</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>19</td><td>17</td><td>155</td><td>160</td><td>38</td><td>23</td><td>36</td><td>87</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>…</td><td>546</td></tr>
<tr><td>1974</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>8</td><td>21</td><td>169</td><td>160</td><td>42</td><td>31</td><td>44</td><td>107</td><td>5</td><td>8</td><td>…</td><td>600</td></tr>
<tr><td>1975</td><td>4</td><td>0</td><td>14</td><td>12</td><td>226</td><td>206</td><td>37</td><td>36</td><td>57</td><td>98</td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>…</td><td>701</td></tr>
<tr><td>1976</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>25</td><td>14</td><td>205</td><td>183</td><td>31</td><td>34</td><td>68</td><td>88</td><td>4</td><td>8</td><td>…</td><td>668</td></tr>
<tr><td>1977</td><td>8</td><td>1</td><td>14</td><td>38</td><td>197</td><td>192</td><td>44</td><td>46</td><td>70</td><td>91</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>…</td><td>711</td></tr>
<tr><td>1978</td><td>9</td><td>4</td><td>13</td><td>27</td><td>180</td><td>182</td><td>39</td><td>32</td><td>84</td><td>85</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>…</td><td>661</td></tr>
<tr><td>1979</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>17</td><td>11</td><td>186</td><td>175</td><td>44</td><td>36</td><td>56</td><td>90</td><td>4</td><td>7</td><td>…</td><td>631</td></tr>
<tr><td>1980</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>12</td><td>9</td><td>181</td><td>158</td><td>31</td><td>31</td><td>55</td><td>105</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>…</td><td>592</td></tr>
<tr><td>1981</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>11</td><td>17</td><td>186</td><td>170</td><td>41</td><td>29</td><td>73</td><td>110</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>…</td><td>648</td></tr>
<tr><td>1982</td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>190</td><td>184</td><td>35</td><td>39</td><td>70</td><td>109</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>…</td><td>667</td></tr>
<tr><td>1983</td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>13</td><td>11</td><td>190</td><td>202</td><td>40</td><td>33</td><td>75</td><td>108</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>…</td><td>682</td></tr>
<tr><td>1984</td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>15</td><td>14</td><td>198</td><td>190</td><td>43</td><td>30</td><td>54</td><td>110</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>…</td><td>667</td></tr>
<tr><td>1985[3]</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>26</td><td>14</td><td>219</td><td>193</td><td>26</td><td>28</td><td>63</td><td>113</td><td>6</td><td>10</td><td>…</td><td>704</td></tr>
<tr><td>1986</td><td>4</td><td>0</td><td>15</td><td>12</td><td>156</td><td>139</td><td>47</td><td>26</td><td>64</td><td>89</td><td>3</td><td>14</td><td>…</td><td>569</td></tr>
<tr><td>1987</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>14</td><td>20</td><td>174</td><td>204</td><td>44</td><td>30</td><td>73</td><td>78</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>…</td><td>644</td></tr>
<tr><td>1988</td><td>7</td><td>1</td><td>11</td><td>8</td><td>154</td><td>186</td><td>31</td><td>23</td><td>66</td><td>80</td><td>1</td><td>8</td><td>…</td><td>576</td></tr>
<tr><td>1989</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>16</td><td>18</td><td>215</td><td>175</td><td>43</td><td>22</td><td>67</td><td>86</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>…</td><td>657</td></tr>
<tr><td>1990</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>9</td><td>12</td><td>184</td><td>182</td><td>39</td><td>36</td><td>74</td><td>110</td><td>1</td><td>12</td><td>…</td><td>660</td></tr>
<tr><td>1991</td><td>10</td><td>2</td><td>21</td><td>17</td><td>181</td><td>245</td><td>42</td><td>21</td><td>84</td><td>128</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>…</td><td>754</td></tr>
<tr><td>1992</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>21</td><td>11</td><td>166</td><td>242</td><td>29</td><td>32</td><td>92</td><td>122</td><td>2</td><td>13</td><td>…</td><td>732</td></tr>
<tr><td>1993</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>19</td><td>11</td><td>159</td><td>192</td><td>31</td><td>30</td><td>49</td><td>120</td><td>0</td><td>7</td><td>…</td><td>627</td></tr>
<tr><td>1994</td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>19</td><td>15</td><td>126</td><td>192</td><td>29</td><td>24</td><td>66</td><td>113</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>…</td><td>596</td></tr>
<tr><td>1995</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>17</td><td>14</td><td>135</td><td>181</td><td>27</td><td>21</td><td>60</td><td>120</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>…</td><td>588</td></tr>
<tr><td>1996</td><td>7</td><td>1</td><td>18</td><td>9</td><td>154</td><td>187</td><td>45</td><td>32</td><td>53</td><td>125</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>…</td><td>635</td></tr>
<tr><td>1997</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>24</td><td>8</td><td>132</td><td>178</td><td>31</td><td>25</td><td>61</td><td>116</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>…</td><td>586</td></tr>
<tr><td>1998</td><td>7</td><td>1</td><td>24</td><td>5</td><td>137</td><td>156</td><td>33</td><td>33</td><td>64</td><td>90</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>…</td><td>558</td></tr>
<tr><td>1999</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>13</td><td>9</td><td>137</td><td>162</td><td>26</td><td>13</td><td>61</td><td>110</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>538</td></tr>
<tr><td>2000</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>15</td><td>10</td><td>150</td><td>156</td><td>30</td><td>26</td><td>59</td><td>85</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>546</td></tr>
<tr><td>2001</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>9</td><td>8</td><td>140</td><td>170</td><td>34</td><td>27</td><td>70</td><td>84</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>553</td></tr>
<tr><td>2002</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>9</td><td>9</td><td>118</td><td>178</td><td>36</td><td>27</td><td>70</td><td>126</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>582</td></tr>
<tr><td>2003</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>8</td><td>8</td><td>100</td><td>178</td><td>43</td><td>41</td><td>63</td><td>93</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>548</td></tr>
</tbody>
</table>

… figures not applicable

1. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 6 homicides included in 2003 and 15 homicides included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.
2. Includes Nunavut before 1999.
3. Excludes 329 victims killed in the Air India incident.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 14

Homicide victim rates[1], by province/territory, 1961-2003

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.[2]	Yukon	N.W.T.[3]	Nvt.	Canada	% change Canada
1961	0.22	0.96	0.81	0.33	0.99	1.43	1.63	1.51	1.35	2.09	6.84	0.00	…	1.28	…
1962	0.00	0.93	1.34	1.32	1.15	1.20	2.03	1.40	1.31	3.31	19.99	0.00	…	1.43	11.6
1963	0.63	0.00	0.80	0.82	1.26	1.17	1.69	0.86	1.92	2.06	20.01	3.89	…	1.32	-7.8
1964	1.04	0.00	1.72	0.82	0.93	1.22	1.67	2.12	1.75	1.83	6.69	11.18	…	1.31	-0.3
1965	1.23	3.69	1.32	0.81	1.11	1.13	1.55	1.58	1.38	3.17	20.57	7.29	…	1.41	7.5
1966	0.61	0.92	1.19	0.97	0.97	1.02	1.77	1.26	1.85	2.56	0.00	0.00	…	1.25	-11.4
1967	0.20	0.00	1.32	0.81	1.28	1.60	1.56	2.61	2.55	2.42	39.97	6.89	…	1.66	32.8
1968	0.99	0.00	1.17	0.80	1.72	1.43	2.88	2.40	1.64	3.64	6.65	0.00	…	1.81	9.2
1969	0.97	0.90	1.55	0.16	2.11	1.50	2.86	3.44	1.48	2.43	0.00	3.22	…	1.86	2.8
1970	0.19	0.91	1.92	1.28	2.34	1.52	2.95	2.55	2.63	3.67	35.25	21.21	…	2.19	17.8
1971	0.38	0.00	2.01	1.56	2.02	1.92	3.30	3.11	2.70	2.72	0.00	5.49	…	2.15	-1.8
1972	0.37	1.76	1.75	1.70	2.54	1.77	3.59	3.04	2.18	3.82	14.89	5.16	…	2.34	8.9
1973	0.55	0.00	2.34	2.59	2.49	1.98	3.77	2.52	2.09	3.68	18.91	9.82	…	2.43	3.5
1974	0.55	1.72	0.98	3.16	2.70	1.95	4.12	3.41	2.51	4.38	23.73	19.45	…	2.63	8.4
1975	0.72	0.00	1.69	1.77	3.57	2.48	3.61	3.92	3.15	3.92	27.39	11.67	…	3.03	15.1
1976	1.07	1.69	2.99	2.03	3.20	2.17	3.00	3.65	3.64	3.47	17.80	18.05	…	2.85	-6.0
1977	1.42	0.83	1.67	5.46	3.06	2.26	4.24	4.87	3.59	3.54	26.27	8.96	…	3.00	5.2
1978	1.59	3.29	1.54	3.86	2.79	2.12	3.75	3.36	4.15	3.25	8.42	8.84	…	2.76	-8.0
1979	0.88	0.00	2.00	1.56	2.88	2.02	4.24	3.75	2.67	3.38	16.67	15.31	…	2.61	-5.5
1980	0.52	0.81	1.41	1.27	2.78	1.81	3.00	3.20	2.51	3.83	8.22	8.64	…	2.41	-7.4
1981	0.70	0.81	1.29	2.41	2.84	1.93	3.96	2.97	3.18	3.90	4.18	10.51	…	2.61	8.1
1982	1.04	0.00	1.40	1.84	2.89	2.06	3.34	3.95	2.96	3.79	8.17	14.14	…	2.66	1.7
1983	1.04	0.00	1.50	1.54	2.88	2.23	3.77	3.29	3.14	3.72	4.23	5.88	…	2.69	1.2
1984	1.03	0.00	1.71	1.94	2.99	2.07	4.01	2.95	2.26	3.73	8.36	9.51	…	2.60	-3.1
1985[4]	0.86	0.78	2.94	1.93	3.29	2.08	2.40	2.73	2.62	3.80	24.63	18.38	…	2.72	4.6
1986	0.69	0.00	1.69	1.65	2.33	1.47	4.31	2.53	2.63	2.96	12.26	25.60	…	2.18	-20.0
1987	0.87	0.00	1.57	2.75	2.57	2.12	4.01	2.90	3.00	2.56	0.00	3.63	…	2.43	11.7
1988	1.22	0.77	1.23	1.10	2.25	1.89	2.81	2.24	2.69	2.57	3.76	14.37	…	2.15	-11.7
1989	0.87	0.77	1.77	2.45	3.10	1.73	3.90	2.16	2.69	2.69	7.38	12.27	…	2.41	12.0
1990	0.00	0.77	0.99	1.62	2.63	1.77	3.53	3.57	2.91	3.34	3.60	20.37	…	2.38	-1.1
1991	1.73	1.53	2.29	2.28	2.56	2.35	3.79	2.09	3.24	3.79	6.64	4.92	…	2.69	12.9
1992	0.34	0.00	2.28	1.47	2.34	2.29	2.61	3.19	3.49	3.52	6.64	20.86	…	2.58	-4.1
1993	1.21	1.51	2.06	1.47	2.22	1.80	2.77	2.98	1.84	3.36	0.00	11.04	…	2.19	-15.3
1994	0.70	0.75	2.05	2.00	1.75	1.77	2.58	2.38	2.44	3.07	10.10	6.15	…	2.06	-6.0
1995	0.88	0.74	1.83	1.86	1.87	1.65	2.39	2.07	2.19	3.18	13.14	4.52	…	2.01	-2.4
1996	1.25	0.74	1.93	1.20	2.13	1.69	3.97	3.14	1.91	3.23	0.00	5.93	…	2.14	6.9
1997	1.27	0.00	2.57	1.06	1.81	1.59	2.73	2.46	2.16	2.94	3.15	4.44	…	1.96	-8.6
1998	1.30	0.74	2.58	0.67	1.88	1.37	2.90	3.24	2.21	2.26	9.63	7.44	…	1.85	-5.6
1999	0.37	0.73	1.39	1.20	1.87	1.41	2.28	1.28	2.07	2.74	3.25	2.46	7.46	1.77	-4.4
2000	1.14	2.20	1.61	1.33	2.04	1.34	2.61	2.58	1.96	2.10	6.57	2.47	10.91	1.78	0.5
2001	0.19	1.46	0.97	1.07	1.89	1.43	2.95	2.70	2.29	2.06	3.32	9.80	10.67	1.78	0.2
2002	0.39	0.73	0.96	1.20	1.59	1.47	3.12	2.71	2.25	3.06	0.00	9.65	6.96	1.86	4.1
2003	0.96	0.73	0.85	1.07	1.34	1.45	3.70	4.12	2.00	2.24	3.22	9.55	10.21	1.73	-6.6

… figures not applicable
1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.
   1961-1970: Final intercensal estimates.
   1971-1995: Revised intercensal estimates, adjusted for net undercoverage.
   1996-2000: Final intercensal estimates.
   2001: Final postcensal estimates.
   2002: Updated postcensal estimates.
   2003: Preliminary postcensal estimates.
2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 6 homicides included in 2003 and 15 homicides included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.
3. Includes Nunavut before 1999.
4. Excludes 329 victims killed in the Air India incident.
Source: Homicide Survey, Policing Services Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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