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HOMICIDE IN CANADA - 1998

Orest Fedorowycz

HIGHLIGHTS

- The national homicide rate decreased by 6% in 1998, to its lowest rate in 30 years. The rate has generally been decreasing since the mid-1970s. The 555 homicides in 1998 were 31 fewer than in 1997 and 13% lower than the average for the previous ten years.
- In general, homicide rates were higher in the west than in the east. Saskatchewan had the highest provincial rate in 1998, followed by Manitoba. The lowest rates were in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Most provinces reported a decrease or no change in the number of homicides in 1998, with the largest decreases in British Columbia and Ontario.
- Among the nine largest metropolitan areas, Winnipeg reported the highest rate, followed by Edmonton and Vancouver. Both Ottawa-Hull and Hamilton had their lowest rates since 1981, when data were first tabulated by metropolitan area.
- Since 1979, firearms have been used in about one-third of all homicides each year. In 1998, however, this proportion fell to 27%, the lowest since 1961 when national homicide data were first collected. The 151 shootings in 1998 represented a 22% decrease over the total in 1997, and were 27% fewer than the average (207) for the previous ten years. Handguns were used in less than half (46%) of all firearm homicides.
- Homicides continue to be committed primarily by someone known to the victim. In 1998, 40% of victims were killed by family members, and 45% by acquaintances. The proportion of homicides committed by strangers represented 15% of all homicides and has remained relatively stable over the past ten years.
- Spousal homicides continued to decline in 1998. The 70 victims killed by a spouse were 6 fewer than in 1997 and 23 fewer than the average number killed by a spouse since 1991. Over half (55%) of all female victims and 6% of male victims 18 years of age and older in 1998 were killed by a person with whom they had an intimate relationship at one point in time, either through marriage or dating.
- Over the last ten years, the rate per 100,000 youths accused of homicide has remained relatively stable while the rate for adults has generally been decreasing. From 1988 to 1997, 52 youths, on average, were accused of homicide each year, representing 9% of all persons accused of homicide. In 1998, 57 youths were accused, accounting for 11% of all persons accused of homicide.
- The age of greatest risk of being a homicide victim was during the first year of life. Of the 23 infant victims, 18 were killed by parents, one by a caregiver, and one by a stranger (the accused were not known in 3 cases).



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INTRODUCTION

The most recent police-reported statistics indicate that the crime rate in Canada has decreased for the seventh consecutive year and is the lowest since 1979.¹ Statistics from the United States and from many European countries show similar trends.² However, data from studies such as the 1993 General Social Survey (GSS),³ the 1996 International Criminal Victimization Survey (ICVS),⁴ and national polls suggest that Canadians perceive crime as increasing and fear being a victim of crime in their neighbourhoods. The most feared crimes are those of a violent nature especially homicide – the killing of one human being by another - which tends to receive more media attention than any other criminal act. Despite this 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.

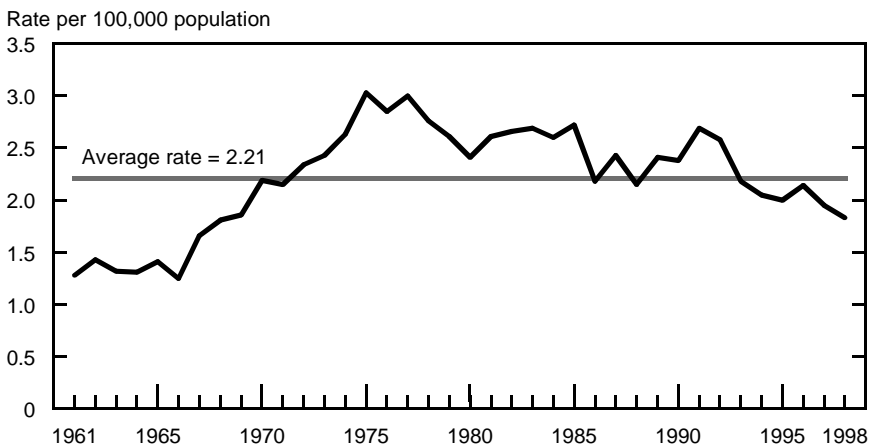
In Canada, criminal homicide is classified as first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter or infanticide. Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide, accidental or justifiable homicides are not included in this classification.

GENERAL TRENDS

Homicide rate lowest in 30 years

Homicide is a relatively rare occurrence in Canada, accounting for 0.02% of the almost three million *Criminal Code* incidents reported to police in 1998. By comparison, there were nearly one and one-half times more attempted murders, almost seven times more

Figure 1



Source: *Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.*

¹ Tremblay, S. 1999. *Canadian Crime Statistics - 1998, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 19 No.9.* Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
² Information provided by the National Central Bureau, Interpol Ottawa.
³ 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.
⁴ 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 1

Homicide Rates for Selected Countries, 1998					
Country	Homicide rate per 100,000	% Change 1997-1998	Country	Homicide rate per 100,000	% Change 1997-1998
Switzerland	1.06	-14 %	France	1.64	-1 %
Germany	1.18	-18 %	Canada	1.83	-6 %
England & Wales	1.30	-7 %	Hungary	2.82	+1 %
Italy	1.54	+1 %	United States	6.30	-7 %

suicides⁵, and 400 times as many assaults as homicides. The general decline in homicides, evident since the mid-1970s, continued in 1998. There were 555 homicide offences reported, 31 fewer than the previous year, and well below the average of 641 for the previous decade. The 1998 homicide rate of 1.83 per 100,000 population represented a decrease of 6% from 1997, and was the lowest recorded since 1968.

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 3.03 in 1975, an increase of 142%. From 1975 to 1998, despite yearly fluctuations, the homicide rate has gradually declined, reaching a rate of 1.83 in 1998, a decrease of 40% compared to 1975 (Figure 1).

Homicide rate also decreasing in United States and many other countries

According to preliminary figures, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported an 8% decrease in the number of homicides in the United States in 1998.⁶ There were just under 17,000 homicides reported for that year, representing a rate of about 6.3 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 1.30 per 100,000 population in 1998, almost 29% lower than Canada's rate (Table 1).⁷ Large declines were seen in homicide rates in Germany and Switzerland, while remaining relatively stable in Italy, France and Hungary.

The rate of attempted murders has been declining since 1991, almost parallel to the trend in the homicide rate. In 1998, the rate of attempted murders (2.4 per 100,000 population) fell by 16% from the previous year, two-and-a-half times more than the change in the homicide rate. Although advanced medical procedures may prevent some assaults from becoming homicides, it appears that the decline in the homicide rate must be a result of other factors.

GEOGRAPHICAL PATTERNS IN HOMICIDE

Homicide rate remained the same or increased in five provinces

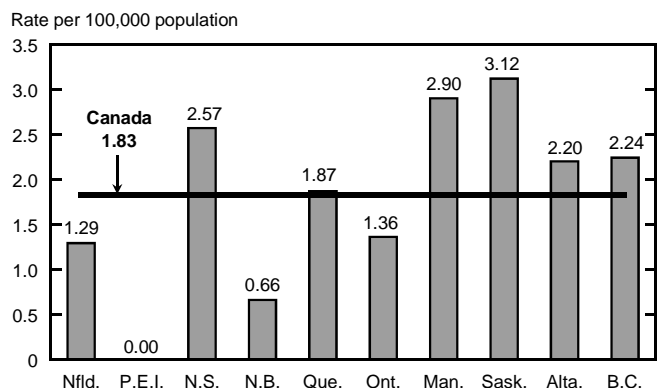
The decline in the national homicide rate since the mid-1970s is also reflected in the rates for most provinces. The exception has been in the Atlantic Provinces where homicide rates, while low to begin with, have remained relatively constant over the last 20 years.

Historically, rates in the Western provinces and the Territories have generally been higher than the national rate. This was still the case in 1998, although Nova Scotia's rate has been relatively high in the past two years. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan recorded the highest rate (3.12 per 100,000), followed by Manitoba (2.90) and Nova Scotia (2.57). The latest crime data indicate that Saskatchewan also recorded the highest provincial crime rate for 1998. The lowest rates were in Prince Edward Island (no homicides), New Brunswick (0.66), its lowest since 1969, and Newfoundland (1.29). British Columbia recorded its lowest rate (2.24 per 100,000) in 34 years, and Ontario (1.36), its lowest in 32 years (Figure 2).

Three provinces reported decreases in the number of homicides in 1998 (Table 2): British Columbia (-26), Ontario (-23), and New Brunswick (-3), while Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island reported no change in their numbers from 1997. Total homicides increased in the other provinces/territories, most notably in Saskatchewan (+7), and Quebec (+5).

Figure 2

Homicide Rate by Province, 1998



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

⁵ Statistics Canada. Causes of Death, Catalogue 84-208, Health Statistics Division, 1999.

⁶ United States Bureau of Justice Statistics.

⁷ Information provided by the National Central Bureau - Interpol Ottawa.

Table 2



Homicides by Province/Territory, 1997 and 1998

Province/Territory	1998 ¹		1997 ²		Average 1988-1997	
	Number	Rate ³	Number	Rate ³	Number	Rate ³
Newfoundland	7	1.29	7	1.26	5	0.94
Prince Edward Island	-	0.00	-	0.00	1	0.75
Nova Scotia	24	2.57	24	2.57	18	1.90
New Brunswick	5	0.66	8	1.06	12	1.65
Québec	137	1.87	132	1.81	161	2.26
Ontario	155	1.36	178	1.58	196	1.85
Manitoba	33	2.90	31	2.73	35	3.10
Saskatchewan	32	3.12	25	2.45	27	2.62
Alberta	64	2.20	61	2.15	67	2.54
British Columbia	90	2.24	116	2.93	112	3.17
Yukon	3	9.48	1	3.10	1	4.72
Northwest Territories ⁴	5	7.41	3	4.42	6	10.23
CANADA	555	1.83	586	1.95	641	2.25

¹ The following number of homicides were reported and included in 1998 but occurred in previous years: Nfld. - 1; Qc. - 2; Ont. - 6; Man. - 2; B.C. - 3; TOTAL - 14.
² 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.
³ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised postcensal estimates..
⁴ Includes Nunavut.
- Nil or zero.
⁵ Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

Nunavut : a homicide profile

Homicide rates in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon are usually higher than those in the provinces (Table 9). On April 1st, 1999, Nunavut, which comprises the eastern part of the old Northwest Territories, officially became a Canadian territory. The table below shows homicide statistics for the period 1991 to 1998 according to the 1999 boundaries for Yukon and the new territories. Although populations in the three territories are lower than 100,000, rates are based on this number for comparability purposes with the provinces.

Homicide Numbers and Rates¹ in Territories, 1991-1998

Territory	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
	number							
Nunavut	1	2	3	3	1	2	1	4
NWT (excludes Nunavut)	2	11	4	1	2	2	2	1
Yukon	-	2	-	3	4	-	1	3
	rate							
Nunavut	4.50	8.71	12.68	12.25	3.99	7.77	3.85	15.12
NWT (excludes Nunavut)	5.17	27.89	10.03	2.46	4.82	4.78	4.78	2.44
Yukon	0.00	6.61	0.00	9.98	12.95	0.00	3.10	9.48

¹ Rate per 100,000 population.
- Nil or zero.

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 1998, the homicide rate for all the 25 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) was 1.83, the same as the national rate. The average CMA rate for the previous ten years was 2.45, slightly above the national average of 2.25.

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 largest CMAs

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.

have shown the highest rates. In 1998, however, there was very little difference among the groups.

Table 3

Homicides by Census Metropolitan Area, 1997 and 1998

Census Metropolitan Area	1998 ¹			1997 ^{2r}			Average 1988-1997		
	Population	Number	Rate ³	Population	Number	Rate ³	Population	Number	Rate ³
500,000+ population									
Toronto	4,594,880	76	1.65	4,503,082	83	1.84	4,161,127	80	1.92
Montréal	3,428,304	65	1.90	3,411,970	74	2.17	3,267,761	92	2.81
Vancouver	1,995,927	45	2.25	1,966,881	52	2.64	1,727,753	54	3.13
Ottawa-Hull	1,056,748	7	0.66	1,047,254	12	1.15	976,692	17	1.69
Ontario part	801,555	4	0.50	794,068	9	1.13	738,956	13	1.71
Quebec part	255,193	3	1.18	253,186	3	1.18	237,737	4	1.64
Edmonton	917,536	22	2.40	897,605	28	3.12	863,027	27	3.11
Calgary	907,112	19	2.09	873,352	9	1.03	790,921	16	2.01
Québec	687,155	15	2.18	685,786	9	1.31	670,016	11	1.63
Winnipeg	676,432	18	2.66	677,743	21	3.10	667,759	18	2.74
Hamilton	658,618	6	0.91	650,865	11	1.69	627,746	12	1.90
Total	14,922,712	273	1.83	14,714,538	299	2.03	13,752,802	326	2.37
250,000 - 499,999 population									
Kitchener ⁴	433,354	7	1.62	425,983	3	0.70	398,342	5	1.33
St. Catharines-Niagara ⁴	422,036	2	0.47	418,535	8	1.91	409,357	8	1.88
London	418,180	6	1.43	413,582	4	0.97	398,693	5	1.20
Halifax	347,984	12	3.45	345,346	11	3.19	331,404	7	2.23
Victoria	318,124	10	3.14	317,547	6	1.89	300,903	6	1.89
Windsor	296,726	8	2.70	291,918	8	2.74	277,571	7	2.38
Oshawa	289,192	3	1.04	282,276	6	2.13	258,632	4	1.55
Total	2,525,596	48	1.90	2,495,186	46	1.84	2,374,902	42	1.75
100,000 - 249,999 population									
Saskatoon	229,302	7	3.05	227,708	8	3.51	217,552	6	2.62
Regina	199,539	9	4.51	199,082	3	1.51	196,789	5	2.44
St. John's	173,586	2	1.15	176,542	3	1.70	175,335	2	1.25
Sudbury	163,313	3	1.84	163,997	2	1.22	163,028	4	2.39
Sherbrooke	152,655	1	0.66	151,449	4	2.64	144,753	2	1.38
Chicoutimi-Jonquière ⁵	146,691	1	0.68	162,763	-	0.00	164,546	2	0.91
Trois-Rivières	142,448	-	0.00	142,286	2	1.41	140,259	2	1.50
Thunder Bay	128,607	3	2.33	128,571	3	2.33	129,201	3	2.63
Saint John	127,280	-	0.00	127,810	3	2.35	128,333	3	2.42
Total	1,463,421	26	1.78	1,480,208	28	1.89	1,459,795	29	1.97
CMA TOTALS	18,911,729	347	1.83	18,689,932	373	2.00	17,587,498	396	2.25
< 100,000 population	11,388,693	208	1.83	11,314,023	213	1.88	10,908,665	245	2.25
CANADA	30,300,422	555	1.83	30,003,955	586	1.95	28,496,164	641	2.25

¹ The following number of homicides were reported and included in 1998 but occurred in previous years: Toronto - 1; Ottawa-Hull - 1; Winnipeg - 2; Kitchener - 1; Victoria - 1; Areas < 100,000 population - 8; TOTAL - 14.

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

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

⁴ Beginning in 1991, the populations were adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

⁵ In 1998, the population was adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

- Nil or zero.

^r Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

Among the nine largest CMAs, Winnipeg, despite a rate lower than its previous ten-year average, reported the highest rate (2.66), followed by Edmonton (2.40), and Vancouver (2.25). Compared to the average rates for the previous ten years, Edmonton's and Vancouver's rates were 23% and 28% lower, respectively. The lowest rates were reported for Ottawa-Hull (0.66) and Hamilton (0.91), their lowest rates since CMA data were first tabulated in 1981. Canada's largest metropolitan area, Toronto, which has 15% of the total Canadian population, continued to report a homicide rate (1.65) below the national average.

Among the CMAs with populations of 250,000 - 499,999, Halifax reported the highest homicide rate (3.45), followed closely by

Victoria (3.14), while St. Catharines-Niagara (0.47) and Oshawa (1.04) reported the lowest. Compared to their average rates for the previous ten years, Halifax's rate (their highest since 1981 when data were first tabulated by CMA) and Victoria's rate (their highest since 1984) were 55% and 66% higher, respectively. This was the only CMA group to experience an increase in homicide rates compared to its average rate for the previous ten years.

For the CMAs with populations less than 250,000, Regina (4.51) reported the highest rate, 85% higher than its previous ten year rate, while Trois Rivières and Saint John recorded no homicides.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE INCIDENTS

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 has declined from 58% in 1996 to 51% in 1998. Conversely, homicides classified by police as second degree murder have generally been decreasing, and in 1998, represented a proportion of 39%. Despite annual fluctuations, around 9% 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.

Five percent of homicide incidents involved multiple victims, most were family-related

In 1998, 527 separate homicide incidents involving 555 victims were reported by the police. The majority of these incidents (95%) involved a single victim, while 5% were multiple-victim incidents. Overall, these multiple victim incidents represented 9% of all victims, less than the average of 16% for the previous ten years. The 24 multiple-victim incidents (down from 36 in 1997) were distributed as follows: 20 incidents involved two victims, and four incidents had three victims. Over two-thirds (68%) of the victims in multiple victim incidents were family members of the accused (i.e., immediate or extended family members related through blood, marriage or adoption), up from 51% in 1997.

Eight in ten homicide incidents solved by police

During 1998, the police, through the identification of at least one accused, solved 78% of all reported homicide incidents. 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 1998, 90% were cleared by a charge being laid and 9% by the accused having committed suicide immediately following the offence. Of the 38 incidents cleared by suicide, 30 were family-related. The remaining 1% were cleared for other reasons: Crown chose not to proceed (1), and the death of the accused (other than suicide) (1).

Over half of victims killed in residences

The term "location" refers to where the homicide took place. If this location is unknown, then the place where the body is found is entered as the location. Of the 523 homicide incidents with a known location (4 were unknown) in 1998, three-fifths occurred

in a private residence: 40% occurred in a residence occupied by the victim (either solely or jointly with the accused); 13% occurred in the residence of the accused; and the remaining 8% in other residences. The majority of spousal homicides (89%) and other homicides within the family (88%) occurred in private residences.

The remaining two-fifths of locations were distributed as follows: 26% 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), hospital (4), group home (2), and school/college (1)).

In 1998, females were more likely to be killed in a private residence than were males (80% versus 61%). This is not surprising, given that females are killed in greater proportion by spouses and family members (65% for females compared to 25% for males), and spousal homicides usually occur in a private residence.

FIREARMS

Lowest proportion of firearm homicides since data first available

Since 1988, there have been approximately 200 homicides each year using firearms. Homicides, however, account for a relatively small portion of all firearm-related deaths. Of the 1,037 deaths in Canada involving firearms in 1997 (the latest year that figures were available), the largest proportion of these deaths were due to suicide (79%), followed by homicide (15%), accidents (4%), and other types of incidents (2%).⁸

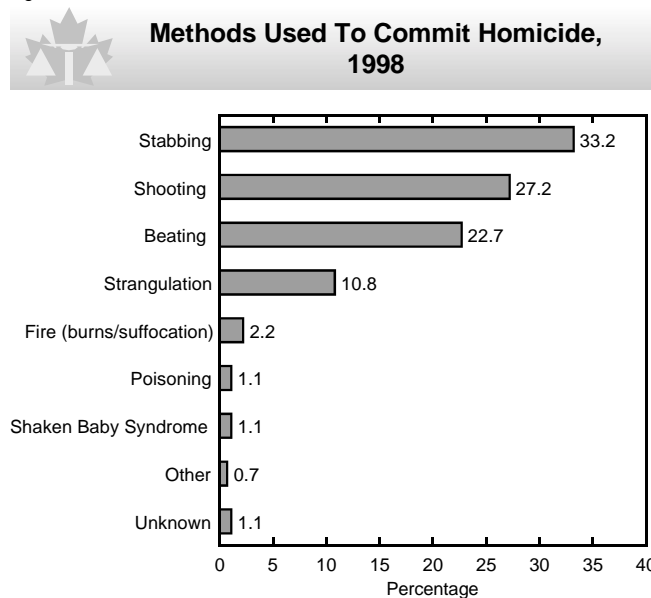
Since 1979, firearms have been used in about one-third of all homicides each year, but in 1998 this proportion fell to 27% (Figure 3), the lowest since 1961 when data first collected. The 151 shootings in 1998 represented a 22% decrease over the total in 1997, and were 27% fewer than the average (207) for the previous ten years. These shootings were distributed as follows: 70 (46%) with a handgun, 51 (34%) with a rifle/shotgun, 14 (9%) with a sawed-off rifle/shotgun, 12 (8%) with a fully-automatic firearm, and 4 (3%) with other types of firearms. Except for the increase in the percentage of firearm homicides with fully-automatic firearms and sawed-off rifles/shotguns, the other three categories of firearm homicides decreased in 1998. The use of handguns and rifle/shotguns (includes sawed-off firearms) as proportions of all firearm homicides decreased by 10% and 5%, respectively, from the 1997 figures.

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 generally been decreasing, from a rate of 0.5 per 100,000 population in 1989 to the present rate of 0.2 in 1998 (Figure 4). Fully-automatic weapons were used in 2% of all homicides in 1998 (Table 4).

Shooting has been the most common method used in homicides since 1961, except in 1990, 1995 and in 1998, when stabbing was the most common method. In 1998, stabbing accounted for

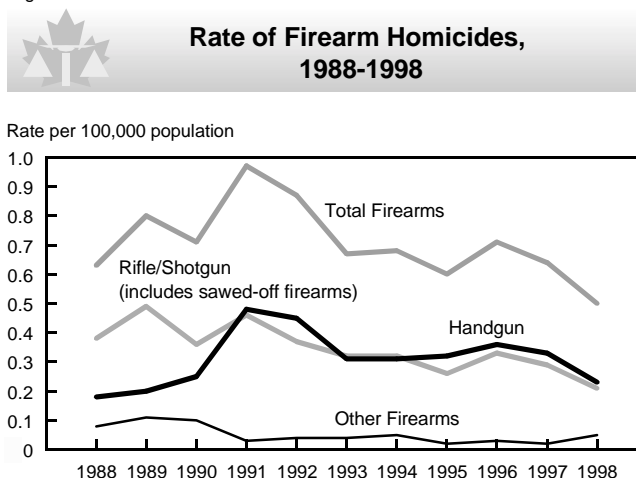
⁸ Statistics Canada. *Causes of Death, Catalogue 84-208, Health Statistics Division, 1999.*

Figure 3



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

Figure 4



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

Table 4

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	107	16.9	81	12.8	8	1.3	16	2.5	-	0.0	212	33.4
1997 ^r	99	16.9	77	13.1	2	0.3	10	1.7	5	0.9	193	32.9
1998	70	12.6	51	9.2	12	2.2	14	2.5	4	0.7	151	27.2

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

- Nil or zero.

... Figures not applicable or not appropriate.

^r Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

Table 5



Homicides by Cause of Death, 1997 and 1998

Cause of death	1998		1997 ^r	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Stabbing	184	33.2	168	28.7
Shooting	151	27.2	193	32.9
Beating	126	22.7	115	19.6
Strangulation	60	10.8	53	9.0
Fire (burns / suffocation)	12	2.2	30	5.1
Poisoning	6	1.1	8	1.4
Shaken Baby Syndrome	6	1.1	6	1.0
Other	4	0.7	8	1.4
Unknown	6	1.1	5	0.9
Total	555	100.0	586	100.0

^r Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

33%, shooting 27%, beating 23%, strangulation/suffocation 11%, fire (burns) 2%, poisoning 1%, and shaking (Shaken Baby Syndrome) for 1% (Table 5).

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 were required to obtain a firearm licence and all firearms will have to be registered by January 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.

AGE AND SEX OF VICTIMS AND ACCUSED

Males account for two-thirds of victims and eighty-eight percent of accused

Historically, about two-thirds of homicide victims have been male. This pattern also held true in 1998. The median⁹ ages for male and female victims of homicide were 32 and 35 years of age, respectively.

Males accounted for 88% of all those accused of homicide in 1998, consistent with the average for the previous ten years. Females accused of homicide tended to kill family members (65% of the time) more often than male accused (31%).

Average age of accused rising

In the United States, much has been made of the fact that persons accused of homicide have become increasingly younger over the past decade¹⁰. This does not appear to be the case, however, in Canada. The median age as well as the average 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 1998 was 20 years with an age-specific rate of 7.5 per 100,000 population (Figure 5).

The 16-34 age group tends to be the highest risk group for committing homicide and other violent crimes, accounting for two-thirds of all accused in a given year, while comprising approximately 27% of the total population. The population in this age group has been shrinking both in number and as a proportion of the total population since 1990, and is expected to reach its smallest size around the year 2000, at which point it is projected to increase again¹¹. This changing proportion may have an impact on future homicide rates.

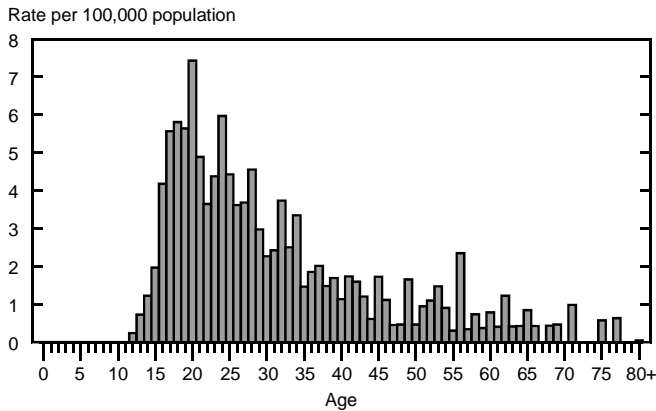
⁹ Median refers to the middle value in a set of values ordered from lowest to highest.

¹⁰ Law Enforcement News, Vol. XXII, No. 452. John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY. September 30, 1996: 6.

¹¹ Statistics Canada. Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016, Catalogue 91-520, December 1994.

Figure 5

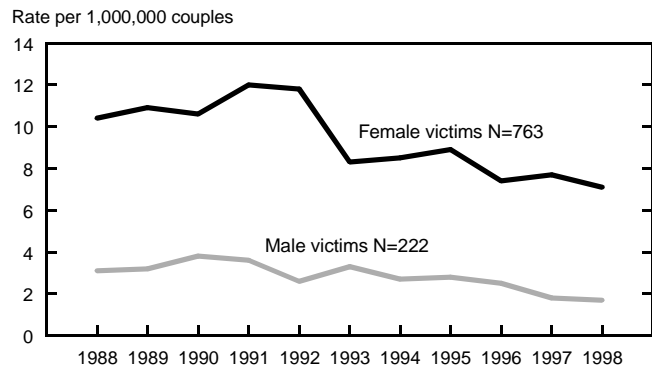
 **Homicide Accused Age-Specific Rates, 1998**



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

Figure 6

 **Spousal Homicide Rate, 1988-1998**



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

ACCUSED-VICTIM RELATIONSHIP

Data indicate that homicides are more likely to be committed by someone known to the victim than by a stranger. These and other related distributions exclude unsolved homicide incidents (22% of all incidents in 1998).

In 1998, in cases that were solved (i.e., 410 incidents where an accused had been identified), 65 (15%) victims were killed by a stranger. The proportion of stranger homicides has remained relatively stable over the past ten years, ranging from 12% to 17%. A little more than half (54%) of incidents where victims were killed by strangers occurred during the commission of another criminal offence, usually a robbery. Male victims were two-and-a-half times more likely to be killed by strangers (19%) than female victims (8%), as well as being at greater risk of being killed by a non-intimate acquaintance (54% versus 21%).¹²

In 1998 there was a 9% decline in family homicides, involving spouses, parents, children, siblings or other members related either by blood, marriage or adoption. This type of homicide included: 70 victims killed by a spouse, 51 killed by a parent, 20 by a son or daughter, 9 by a sibling and 21 by another relative¹³. (Table 6).

Spousal homicides steadily decreasing

Spousal homicides include persons in registered marriages, in common-law relationships and persons separated or divorced from such unions. These homicides account for one out of every six solved homicides. In 1998, 70 persons were killed by a spouse, down from an average of 93 victims since 1991. Four in five spousal homicide victims were women. This declining trend may primarily be the result of reduced exposure to abusive or violent relationships as a consequence of the changing living arrangements of men and women, improvements in the economic status of women, and increases in the availability of domestic violence services (e.g., safe houses or shelters, counselling, financial aid).^{14 15}

Despite yearly fluctuations, the rate of spousal homicide has gradually declined, from 12 wives per million couples¹⁶ in 1991 to 7 per million in 1998. For husbands, the rate has dropped from four per million couples in 1990 to two per million in 1998 (Figure 6).

In 1998, 46 women were killed by a current spouse (legal or common-law), and 11 were killed by a separated or divorced spouse. The data also show that women were almost five times more likely to be killed by a spouse than by a stranger. Of the 13 men killed by a spouse in 1998, 12 were killed by a current spouse and 1 by a separated spouse. Six in 10 incidents of spousal homicides involved a history of domestic violence between the victim and the accused that was known to police (7 in 10 incidents where the victim was male and 5 in 10 where the victim was female).

Historically in homicide incidents, wives tend to stab their spouses while husbands tend to shoot their spouses. However, in 1998, more wives were stabbed (36%) by their spouse than were shot (30%). The majority (77%) of husbands were stabbed, consistent with previous years.

In addition to those killed by a spouse, 10 females were killed by a boyfriend or ex-boyfriend, as compared to 2 males killed by intimates other than spouses. In all, 55% of all female victims and 6% of male victims in 1998 were killed by a person with whom they had an intimate relationship at one point in time, either through marriage or dating.

¹² For more information on stranger homicides, see - Janhevich, D. 1998. Violence committed by strangers. *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-X1E, Vol. 18, No. 9. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

¹³ For more information on family violence, see - Fitzgerald, R. 1999. Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, Catalogue 85-224-XPE, Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

¹⁴ For more information on services available to abused spouses, see - Trainor, C. 1999. Canada's Shelters for Abused Women. *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 19, No. 6. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

¹⁵ Dugan, L., Nagin, D. and Rosenfeld, R. *Homicide Studies*, Vol. 3, No. 3, August 1999: 188.

¹⁶ Includes married, common-law, separated or divorced couples.

Table 6

Relationship Type (Accused was)	1998		1997 ^r		Average 1991-1997	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<i>Family Relationship</i>						
Husband (legal and common-law)	46	10.7	44	9.6	52	9.9
Husband (separated/divorced)	11	2.6	18	3.9	20	3.8
Same sex spouse	-	0.0	1	0.2	...	...
Wife (legal and common-law)	12	2.8	12	2.6	19	3.6
Wife (separated/divorced)	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.3
Father	34	7.9	37	8.0	27	5.2
Mother	17	3.9	26	5.7	18	3.5
Child	20	4.6	18	3.9	19	3.7
Sibling	9	2.1	9	2.0	12	2.2
Other family relation	21	4.9	22	4.8	19	3.7
Total Family	171	39.7	188	40.9	187	36.1
<i>Acquaintance</i>						
(ex) Boyfriend/girlfriend	12	2.8	19	4.1	27	5.3
Close Acquaintance	26	6.0	28	6.1	31	6.1
Authority figure	3	0.7	3	0.7	...	...
Business associate (legal)	12	2.8	9	2.0	16	3.0
Criminal relationships ²	28	6.5	27	5.9	38	7.3
Neighbour	15	3.5	22	4.8	25	4.8
Casual acquaintance	97	22.5	98	21.3	117	22.6
Total Acquaintance	193	44.8	206	44.8	254	48.9
<i>Stranger</i>	65	15.1	63	13.7	72	13.9
<i>Unknown relationship</i>	2	0.5	3	0.7	5	1.0
TOTAL SOLVED HOMICIDES	431	100.0	460	100.0	519	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.

... Figures not applicable or not appropriate.

^r Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

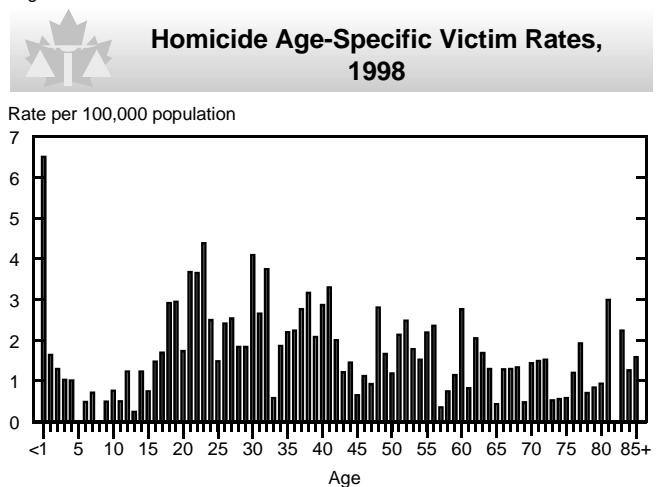
First year of life holds greatest risk of being victim of homicide

There were 54 children (under the age of 12) killed in 1998, slightly higher than the average of 52 killed each year since 1988. In 1998, females were accused in 38% of homicides involving children, compared to 9% of homicides involving adolescents and adults (12 years of age and older).

Figure 7 shows that, in 1998, the age of greatest risk of being a homicide victim was during the first year of life. This pattern does not hold true for all years, but was also the case in 1993 and 1994.

The number of infants under one year of age who were killed in 1998 almost doubled, from 13 in 1997 to 23 in 1998. During the previous ten years, there has been an annual average of 12 victims of homicide under one year of age, accounting for between 2.5% and 5.0% of all victims. The number of infants killed by their parents also increased more than twofold in 1998, from 8 to 18 (11 by the father, 6 by the mother and 1 by both parents). The average age of the mothers and fathers charged was 24. Five of the seven mothers were single, and two were living in a common-law relationship (one with a co-accused), whereas, only one of the twelve fathers was single, nine were in common-law relationships (one with a co-accused), and two were

Figure 7



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

legally married. In the remaining incidents, one infant was killed by a babysitter, another 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 birth ... or of the effect of lactation ... [and] her mind is ... disturbed.” In 1998, for all infant homicides, three of the accused mothers were charged with infanticide, three with second degree murder, and one with manslaughter. On the other hand, nine fathers were charged with manslaughter, two with second degree murder, and one with first degree murder.

The figure for infants may still 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 have resulted in the increased reporting and classification of these cases as homicides.

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 Narcotic Control Act, which dealt with illicit drugs such as cannabis, cocaine and heroin; and, the Food and Drugs 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, 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 four 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.¹⁷ In 1998, police reported that 38% of homicide victims and 50% of accused persons had consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the offence, consistent with patterns since 1991 when this information was first collected in the Homicide Survey. Male victims were almost twice as likely as female victims to have consumed alcohol and/or drugs, whereas both male and female accused were equally likely to have been under the influence.

One in seven homicide incidents are drug-related

Drugs and drug dealing are believed to be the causes of many types of crimes, including homicide. In 1998, one in seven (73) homicide incidents were reported by the police to be drug-related, 30% higher than in any year since 1991 when this question was added to the Homicide Survey. This change may be the result of better reporting and follow-up procedures by the police. Of the 77 victims, 34 were reported to be drug dealers, 24 were not in the labour force, 5 were prostitutes, 12 had various other occupations, and for 2 of the victims the occupations were not known.¹⁸

Homicides committed during commission of another offence

Almost one-third of all homicide incidents reported in 1998 occurred during the commission of another criminal offence. Of these 173 incidents, 113 were committed at the same time as another violent offence: 56 during an assault, 34 during a robbery, 13 during a sexual assault, 5 as a result of a stalking¹⁹, 3 during a kidnapping/abduction, and 2 during other violent offences. A further 8 homicides occurred as a result of arson, 16 during other property offences, and 36 in combination with other types of criminal offences.

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

Studies on the Canadian prison population have found that one-third of incarcerated persons suffer from some sort of mental or developmental disorder (e.g., schizophrenia, mental retardation, dyslexia, etc.).²⁰ In order to address this issue of the mental state of the accused immediately before or during the homicide incident, a new question was added to the Homicide Survey in 1997. The data indicate that, in 1998, 10% of the persons accused of homicide were suspected by police of having a mental or developmental disorder. This proportion is most likely underestimated since police officers may not feel qualified to make such assessments.

OCCUPATIONS AT RISK

One police officer murdered in the line of duty

Despite the obvious dangers inherent in police work, the murder of police officers in Canada 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; all but five were shot. In 1998, one police officer was a victim of homicide. By comparison, the United States, with a population ten times greater than Canada's, reported 65 police officers murdered on the job in 1997 (latest year for which figures are available), and all but three were killed with a firearm. In addition, one correctional officer was killed in Canada in the line of duty in 1998.

There were 23 other persons who were victims of homicide "on the job" in 1998 in Canada: 6 store clerks/managers, 4 food/beverage industry workers, 2 security guards, 2 taxi drivers, and 9 in other occupations.

There were also seven known prostitutes killed in the course of their work, up from four in 1997. It should be noted that the number of prostitutes reported killed most likely under-represents

¹⁷ Sacco, V., and L. Kennedy. 1994. *The Criminal Event*. Scarborough, Ontario. Nelson Canada: 47.

¹⁸ For more information, see - Tremblay, S. 1999. *Illicit Drugs and Crime in Canada*, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 19, No. 1. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

¹⁹ For more information on this topic, see - Kong, R. 1996. *Criminal Harassment*, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 16, No. 12. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

²⁰ Coté, G. and S. Hodgins. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, Vol. 15, 1992: 89-99.

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.²¹

YOUTH HOMICIDE

Since the introduction of the *Young Offenders Act* in 1984, and most recently the newly proposed *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, much publicity has focussed on youths accused of homicide and their subsequent treatment by the courts. In this report, "youths accused of homicide" 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 1988 through 1997, an average of 52 youths were accused each year, accounting for 9% of persons accused of homicide annually, slightly higher than their population share of 8% (Table 7). In 1998, 57 youths were accused of homicide, 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 1988, and in 1998 was 2.3 per 100,000 youths (Figure 8).

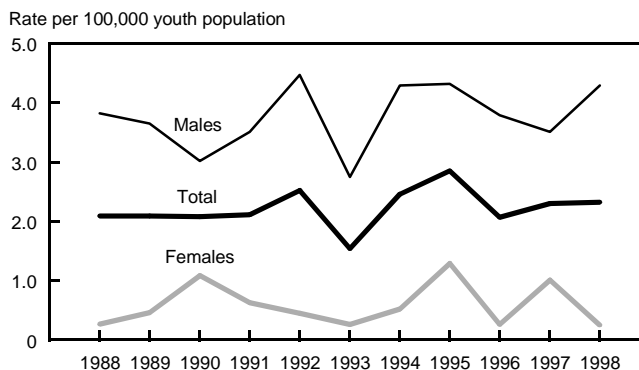
During the previous ten years, 14% of all youths accused of homicide were female. In 1998, females represented only 5% of youths accused.

Youths are more likely than adults to kill other youths and the elderly. In cases that were solved in 1998, 19% of all victims killed by youths were 12-17 years old compared to only 4% of all victims killed by adults. Similarly, a further 19% of victims killed by youths were 60 years of age or over, compared to 12% of victims killed by adults. The largest proportion of victims killed by youth were between 30 and 39 years of age (26%), while for adult accused, it was victims age 18-29 years (25%).

Looking at accused-victim relationships in youth homicide incidents, the data for 1998 show that youths were less likely to kill family members than adult accused (21% vs. 37%). The percentage of acquaintances killed by youths were identical (46%) to those of adult accused, while youths were twice as likely to kill strangers than adults (30% vs. 17%).

Figure 8

Youths (Aged 12 to 17 Years) Accused of Homicide, 1988-1998



Source: *Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.*

Table 7

Youths (12-17 Years) Accused of Homicide, Canada, 1988-1998

Year	Youth Population ¹ (Aged 12-17 Years) (000s)			Youths Accused of Homicide						Total Youth as % of Total Accused
				Number			Rate per 100,000 Youth Population			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1988	1,151.7	1,096.2	2,247.9	44	3	47	3.82	0.27	2.09	8.9
1989	1,150.9	1,093.1	2,244.0	42	5	47	3.65	0.46	2.09	8.4
1990	1,158.6	1,097.5	2,256.1	35	12	47	3.02	1.09	2.08	8.5
1991	1,167.8	1,106.2	2,273.9	41	7	48	3.51	0.63	2.11	7.5
1992	1,185.0	1,120.1	2,305.1	53	5	58	4.47	0.45	2.52	9.0
1993	1,198.0	1,132.9	2,330.9	33	3	36	2.75	0.26	1.54	6.6
1994	1,212.3	1,146.8	2,359.1	52	6	58	4.29	0.52	2.46	10.7
1995	1,226.1	1,160.2	2,386.3	53	15	68	4.32	1.29	2.85	12.2
1996	1,241.5	1,176.1	2,417.6	47	3	50	3.79	0.26	2.07	9.2
1997r	1,252.8	1,187.1	2,439.8	44	12	56	3.51	1.01	2.30	11.0
1998	1,259.0	1,193.0	2,451.9	54	3	57	4.29	0.25	2.32	11.1

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.*

²¹ For more information on prostitution, see - Duchesne, D. 1997. *Street Prostitution in Canada, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE, Vol. 17 No. 2. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.*

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. Also, socio-demographic and other information (e.g., history of domestic violence, alcohol / drug consumption) on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified).

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).

Table 8

 Number of Homicides, 1961-1998													
Year	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T. ¹	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	7	1	18	9	154	187	45	32	53	125	-	4	635
1997 [†]	7	-	24	8	132	178	31	25	61	116	1	3	586
1998	7	-	24	5	137	155	33	32	64	90	3	5	555
Total	172	33	557	449	5,634	6,019	1,229	1,026	2,023	3,336	92	179	20,749

¹ Includes Nunavut

- Nil or zero.

[†] Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

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 9



Homicide Rates¹, 1961-1998²

Year	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T. ³	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	2.01	1.56	2.02	1.92	3.30	3.11	2.70	2.72	0.00	5.49	2.15
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
1985	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
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
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
1988	1.22	0.77	1.23	1.10	2.25	1.89	2.81	2.24	2.69	2.57	3.76	14.36	2.15
1989	0.87	0.77	1.77	2.45	3.10	1.73	3.90	2.16	2.68	2.69	7.37	12.28	2.41
1990	0.00	0.77	0.99	1.62	2.63	1.77	3.53	3.57	2.90	3.34	3.60	20.37	2.38
1991	1.73	1.53	2.29	2.28	2.56	2.35	3.79	2.09	3.24	3.79	0.00	4.92	2.69
1992	0.34	0.00	2.28	1.47	2.33	2.29	2.61	3.19	3.49	3.52	6.61	20.83	2.58
1993	1.21	1.51	2.06	1.47	2.22	1.80	2.77	2.98	1.83	3.36	0.00	11.02	2.18
1994	0.70	0.75	2.05	2.00	1.75	1.77	2.58	2.38	2.44	3.07	9.98	6.14	2.05
1995	0.88	0.74	1.83	1.86	1.86	1.65	2.39	2.07	2.19	3.17	12.95	4.51	2.00
1996	1.25	0.73	1.93	1.20	2.12	1.68	3.97	3.14	1.91	3.22	0.00	5.92	2.14
1997 ^r	1.26	0.00	2.57	1.06	1.81	1.58	2.73	2.45	2.15	2.93	3.10	4.42	1.95
1998	1.29	0.00	2.57	0.66	1.87	1.36	2.90	3.12	2.20	2.24	9.48	7.41	1.83

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.
 Estimates of population used:
 1961-1990: Revised intercensal estimates
 1991-1995: Final intercensal estimates
 1996: Final postcensal estimates
 1997-1998: Updated postcensal estimates

² As of 1971, population estimates were adjusted to reflect new methods of calculation.

³ Includes Nunavut.

^r Revised.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, October 1999.

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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