

Juristat Bulletin—Quick Fact

Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2016

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Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2016

by Adam Cotter

In 2016, violent *Criminal Code* offences accounted for about one in every five crimes that came to the attention of police. While firearm-related violent crime represents a small part of all crime in Canada in a given year, it nevertheless has a significant emotional and physical impact on victims, families, and communities.

This *Juristat Bulletin—Quick Fact* provides information on recent trends in police-reported violent crime involving firearms,¹ including changes since 2009,² geographic variations over time and between regions, and the types of firearms involved. Of note, for an offence to be considered firearm-related, a firearm³ need only be present during the commission of the offence, not necessarily used.

Small proportion of police-reported violent crime involves firearms

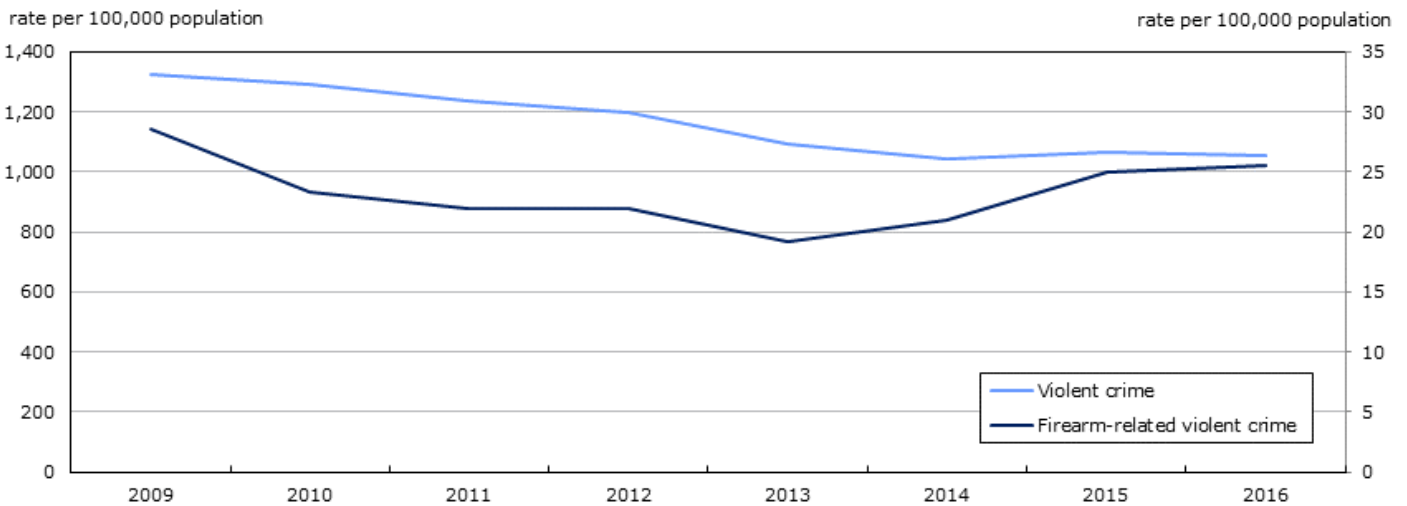
Overall, four in five (78%) police-reported violent crimes did not involve any type of weapon. If a weapon was present, it was most often a weapon other than a firearm (19%), such as a knife or a blunt instrument. About 3% of all violent crimes in 2016 were firearm-related. Between 2009 and 2014, between 1.9% and 2.3% of all violent crime involved a firearm, increasing slightly to 2.7% in 2015 and 2.8% in 2016 (Table 1; Table 2).

Rate of firearm-related violent crime down from 2009, but up one-third since 2013

Firearm-related crime has been increasing in recent years—while other types of crime have been on the decline. In 2016, there were approximately 7,100 victims of violent crime where a firearm was present. This resulted in a rate of 25 victims of firearm-related violent crime for every 100,000 Canadians, a rate that was 33% higher than that reported in 2013 (19 per 100,000). Over the same time, the rate of overall police-reported violent crime declined by 4% (Table 1; Chart 1).

Chart 1

Victims of police-reported violent crime and firearm-related violent crime, Canada, 2009 to 2016



Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

However, the rate of firearm-related violent crime was at its lowest point in recent years in 2013.⁴ Despite the increases noted since 2013, the rate of firearm-related violent crime in 2016 was slightly lower than that reported by police in 2009. In 2009, police reported about 7,300 victims of violent crime involving a firearm, resulting in a rate of 29 victims per 100,000 population.

There are two different ways that data on weapons are collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

The first, **most serious weapon present**, collects information on the most serious weapon present during the commission of the crime, regardless of whether or not it was used. The second approach, **weapon causing injury**, captures information on the type of weapon used in the commission of the offence, but only if the victim sustained a physical injury as a result of the crime.

Relatively speaking, very few injuries that result from violent crime are caused by firearms. There were just over 116,000 victims of violent crime in 2016 who sustained injuries as a result; of these, about 1,500 (1%) were caused by a firearm. However, as would be expected, firearms were proportionately more responsible for incidents resulting in more severe injury. Among victims of violent crime, firearms were the cause of injury for just under 1% of all victims who sustained minor physical injuries, 6% of all major physical injuries, and 32% of deaths.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba have the highest provincial rates of firearm-related violent crime

Similar to trends in violent crime in general, Saskatchewan (56 victims per 100,000 population) and Manitoba (48 per 100,000) recorded the highest rates of firearm-related violence among the provinces in 2016 (Table 2). In these two provinces, as well as in Ontario and Alberta, firearm-related offences accounted for 3% of all violent crimes that came to police attention, while the proportion ranged from 1% to 2% across the other provinces and territories (Table 2).

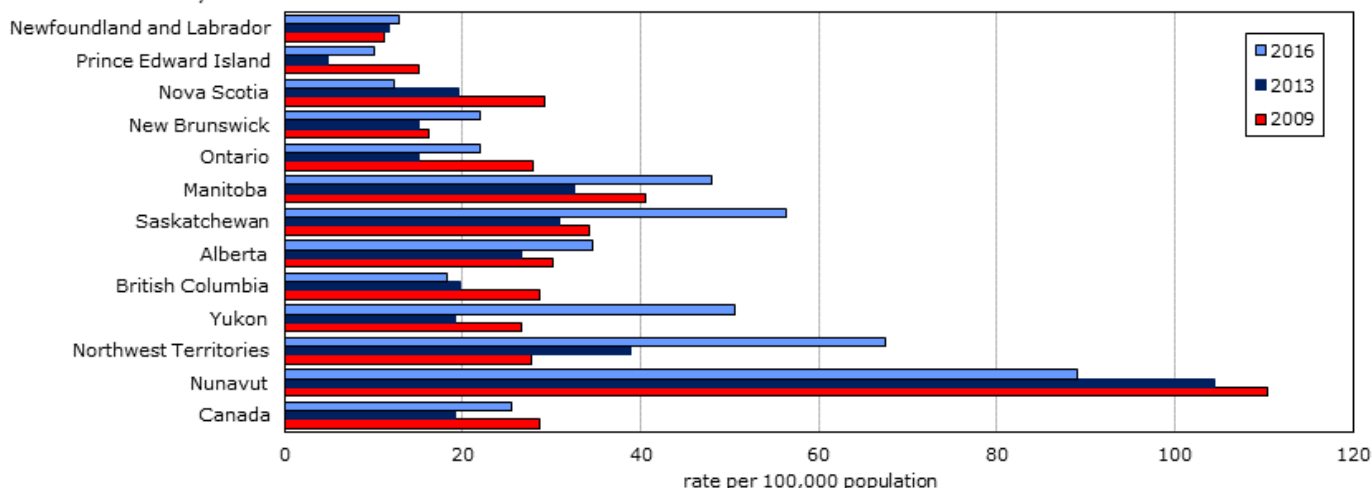
Increases in victims of firearm-related violent crime since 2013 observed virtually across the country

When compared to what was reported in 2013, there were about 1,900 more victims of firearm-related violent crime in Canada in 2016. Over this period, nearly every reporting jurisdiction across the country saw an increase in the number and rate of victims of firearm-related violent crime (Chart 2).

Chart 2

Victims of firearm-related violent crime, by province and territory, 2009, 2013, and 2016

Province and territory



Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

The increase since 2013 was driven by notable increases in firearm-related violent crime in Saskatchewan (83% increase in rate), Manitoba (+48%), Ontario (+46%), New Brunswick (+45%), and Alberta (+30%) (Text table 1).

Text table 1

Changes in number of victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by province and territory, 2009, 2013, and 2016

Province or territory	2016		Percent change	Difference in	Percent change	Difference in
	number	rate ¹	in rate from 2013 to 2016 percent	number of victims from 2013 to 2016 number	in rate from 2009 to 2016 percent	number of victims from 2009 to 2016 number
Newfoundland and Labrador	66	12.9	10	4	15	8
Prince Edward Island	15	10.1	109	8	-33	-6
Nova Scotia	117	12.4	-37	-67	-58	-156
New Brunswick	166	21.9	45	52	36	45
Ontario	3,024	21.9	46	1,016	-22	-570
Manitoba	616	48.0	48	215	18	137
Saskatchewan	634	56.4	83	301	64	287
Alberta	1,472	34.6	30	410	15	364
British Columbia	864	18.2	-7	-38	-37	-400
Yukon	19	50.7	163	12	90	10
Northwest Territories	30	67.5	74	13	143	18
Nunavut	33	89.0	-15	-4	-19	-3
Canada	7,056	25.5	33	1,922	-11	-266

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. In order to facilitate comparisons over time, a specific Trend Database is maintained. This database contains only those police services who have consistently responded to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey over the entire period of the database (2009 to 2016). As a result, there are some slight differences between the numbers from the trend database, used for making comparisons over time, and from the data for the individual year 2016, used when discussing characteristics of police-reported violent crime in Canada. Using the trend database, police services who have consistently reported to the UCR Survey each year over the seven year period reported 7,056 victims of firearm-related violent crime in 2016. Using only the 2016 data, police services reported 7,104 victims of firearm-related crime. This is the reason for the differences in the numbers of firearm-related victims in this table when compared to other tables and charts.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

On the whole, increases were noted in nearly every reporting province and territory between 2013 and 2016, with the exception of Nova Scotia (-37%), Nunavut (-15%), and British Columbia (-7%).

While many provinces saw increases from the national low in 2013, when compared to 2009, there were 266 fewer victims of firearm-related violent crime in Canada in 2016. This difference was driven by decreases in Ontario (570 fewer victims), British Columbia (-400), and Nova Scotia (-156). In contrast, over this period there were substantial increases in the number of victims and the rate of firearm-related violent crime in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and New Brunswick.

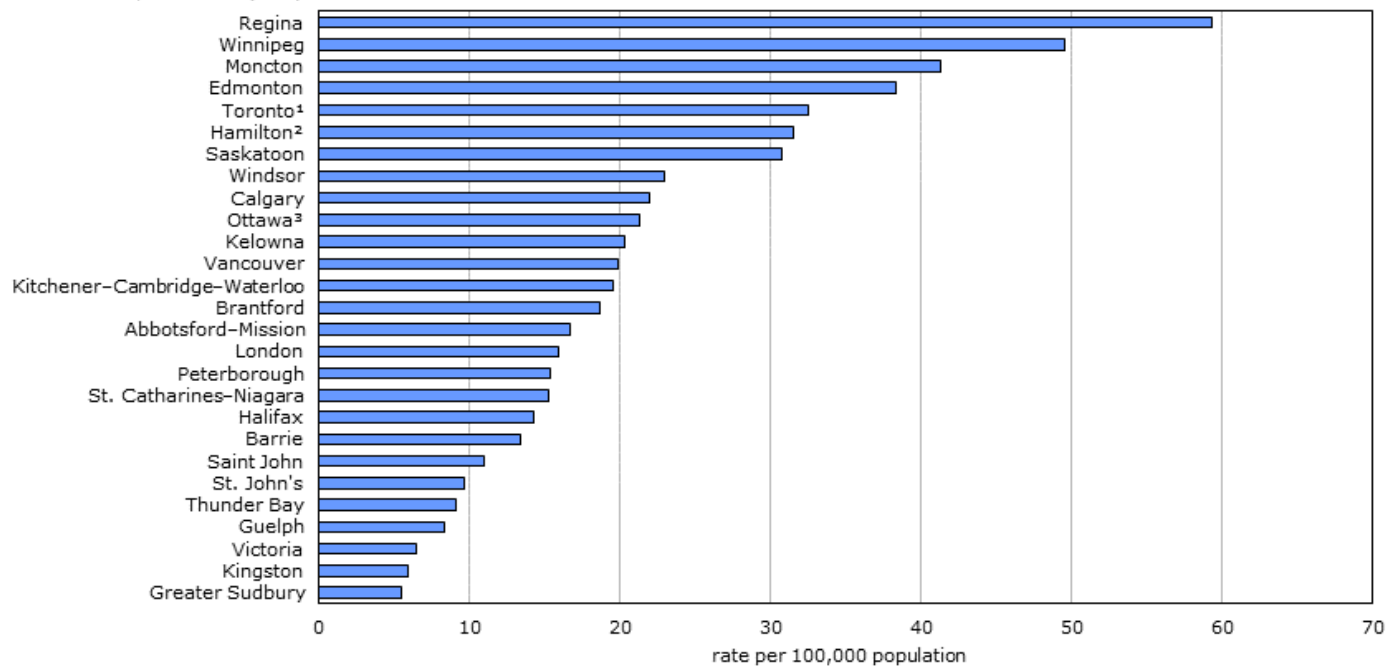
Regina, Winnipeg report highest firearm-related violent crime rates among CMAs

Reflecting the provincial trend, Regina (59 per 100,000 population) and Winnipeg (50 per 100,000) had the highest rates of firearm-related violent crime among census metropolitan areas (CMAs) (Table 3; Chart 3). Moncton (41 per 100,000 population), Edmonton (38 per 100,000), and Toronto (33 per 100,000) reported the next highest rates.

Chart 3

Victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by census metropolitan area, 2016

Census metropolitan area (CMA)



1. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the Toronto CMA.

2. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police that polices the Hamilton CMA.

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

Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this chart due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

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

Compared with 2013, the rate of firearm-related violent crime more than doubled in Regina (up 131%, from 26 per 100,000 in 2013 to 59 per 100,000 in 2016) and in Moncton (up 119%, from 19 to 41). Additionally, there were 869 more victims of firearm-related violent crime in Toronto in 2016 compared to 2013, resulting in an 83% increase in rate.

Since 2013, many of Canada's smaller CMAs have reported decreases in the number of victims of firearm-related crime, some resulting in substantial decreases in rate (St. John's, Saint John, Kingston, Peterborough, Brantford, Guelph, Barrie, Greater Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Abbotsford-Mission, and Victoria). Furthermore, in contrast to the national trend, Halifax (-44%) and Vancouver (-14%) have seen a downward trend in firearm-related violent crime since 2013.

Break and enters to steal firearms increasing in recent years

Police services in reporting jurisdictions reported just over 1,100 incidents of break and enter where the incident was specifically committed in order to steal a firearm.⁵ This represented a rate of 4 incidents per 100,000 population, and continued the general increase noted in this offence since 2009 (Text table 2).

Text table 2

Police-reported break and enter to steal a firearm, Canada, 2009 to 2016

Year	Incidents	Rate
2009	276	1.1
2010	526	2.0
2011	597	2.3
2012	743	2.8
2013	743	2.8
2014	817	3.0
2015	984	3.6
2016	1,116	4.0

Note: Excludes Quebec. This information is also reported by police services in Quebec, but is excluded here for the purposes of comparability with other findings in this report. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Includes the *Criminal Code* offences of break and enter to steal a firearm and break and enter of a motor vehicle to steal a firearm.

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

Of these offences, just over one-third (36%) involved breaking into a motor vehicle for the purpose of stealing a firearm. The remainder (64%) involved breaking and entering into another location, the majority of which were private residences.

Rates of breaking and entering to steal a firearm were also higher in Canada's northern regions (12 per 100,000) and rural areas (9 per 100,000) when compared to the south (4 per 100,000) and urban areas (3 per 100,000). As is the case with violent firearm-related offences, these higher rates may be related to higher rates of gun ownership in these areas.

Handguns are most commonly involved in police-reported firearm-related violent crime

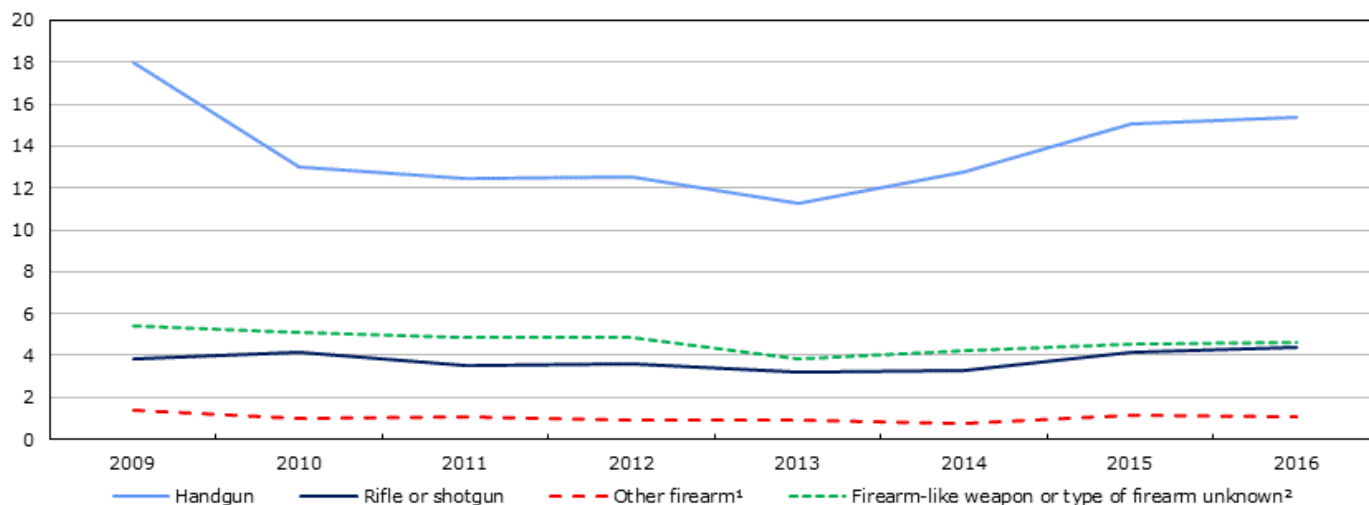
In 2016, more than half (60%) of firearm-related violent crimes involved handguns, followed by shotguns or rifles (18%) and other types of firearms (4%), such as fully automatic firearms or sawed-off rifles or shotguns. The remaining 18% involved a firearm-like weapon (such as a pellet gun or a flare gun) or an unknown type of firearm.

Since 2009, the rate of police-reported violent crime involving handguns has been well above the rates of violent crime involving rifles or shotguns, other firearms (i.e., fully automatic firearms or sawed-off rifles or shotguns), or firearm-like weapons or unknown types of firearm (Chart 4). In addition, much of the increase in firearm-related violence crime since 2013 has been driven by increases in violent crime where a handgun was present, as there were about 1,200 more victims and a 37% higher rate in 2016.

Chart 4

Victims of firearm-related violent crime, by type of firearm, Canada, 2009 to 2016

rate per 100,000 population



1. Includes fully-automatic firearms and sawed-off rifles and/or shotguns.

2. Includes all weapons that do not meet the *Criminal Code* definition of a firearm and that are capable of propelling any object through a barrel by means of gunpowder, CO₂ (compressed carbon dioxide), or pumped air, such as flare guns, pellet guns, or starter's pistols. Also includes all firearm-related violent crime where the specific type of firearm was unknown.

Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Among the provinces in 2016, Manitoba (22 per 100,000) as well as Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario (17 per 100,000 each) reported rates of handgun-related violence that were higher than the national average (15 per 100,000) (Table 5). The Northwest Territories, with 11 victims of handgun-related violence, had a rate of 25 victims per 100,000 population, while there were 2 victims of handgun-related violent crime in Nunavut and 1 in Yukon.

In 2016, Saskatchewan reported a rate of rifle or shotgun-related violent crime of 19 victims per 100,000, nearly double what was reported by Manitoba, the province with the next highest rate (10 per 100,000) and just over four times higher than the national rate (4.5 per 100,000). Rates of rifle or shotgun-related violent crime in the Territories were considerably higher than in the provinces (Table 4).

Among census metropolitan areas (CMAs), handgun-related violent crime was highest in Winnipeg and Moncton (both 31 victims per 100,000 population), followed by Toronto (28 per 100,000) (Table 5). Overall, 86% of all police-reported handgun-related violent crime occurred within a CMA.

This article focuses on overall firearm-related violent crime and trends since 2009. Characteristics of victims and persons accused of firearm-related crime have remained relatively stable in recent years. For example, as was found in 2012, firearm-related violent crime in 2016 continued to be an offence more often committed by strangers (60%), and most victims (69%) and accused persons (90%) were male. As was the case in 2012, the offences of homicide, attempted murder, and robbery were more likely than other violent violations in 2016 to involve the presence of firearms. Additionally, young adults (ages 18 to 24) and youth (ages 12 to 17) continue to be accused of firearm-related violent crime at a higher rate than any other age group.

More information on general characteristics is available in Cotter 2014 or upon request.

Firearm-related violent crime higher in northern regions

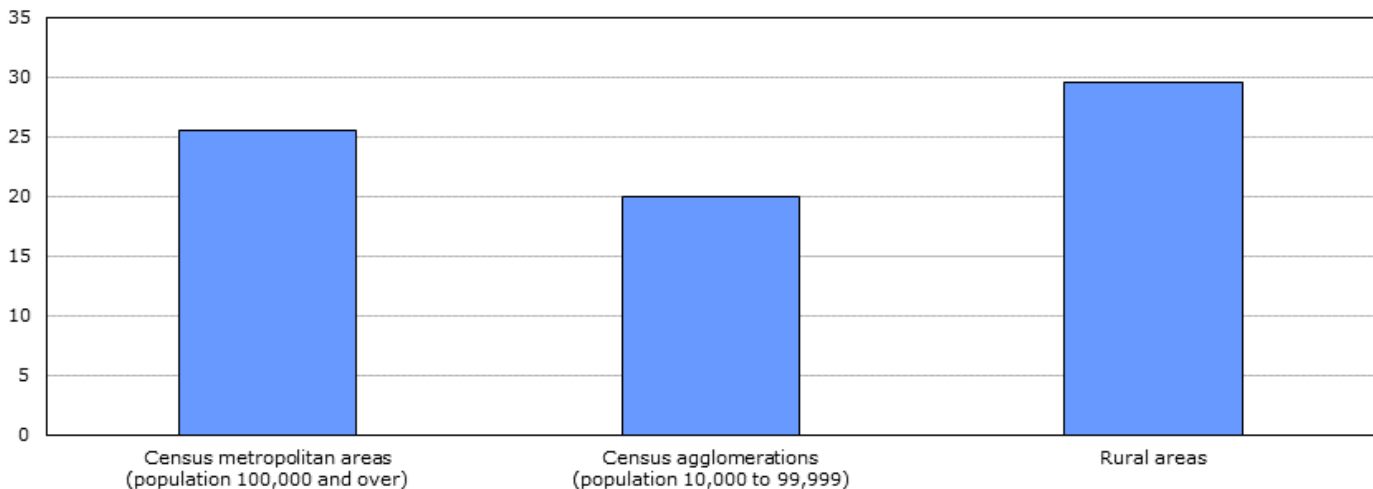
Overall, violent crime tends to be higher in Canada's northern regions, a trend which was also evident for firearm-related crime. The rate of firearm-related violent crime in the north was close to double what was reported in the south (46 victims per 100,000 compared with 24 per 100,000) (Table 6).⁶

Firearm-related violent crime was fairly similar in rural areas and urban areas^{7,8} (Table 6). There were 30 victims of firearm-related violent crime for every 100,000 residents of a rural area in Canada, compared with 25 per 100,000 residents living in an urban area. Despite this general trend, when looking closer at urban areas, rates—and volume—of firearm-related crime were higher in Canada's largest cities, while rates were lowest in areas with a population between 10,000 and 99,999 (Chart 5).

Chart 5

Victims of firearm-related violent crime, by census metropolitan area, census agglomeration and rural area, 2016

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of incidents where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core as measured by commuting flows derived from previous census place of work data, where 50% or more of the population commutes into the core. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a CMA or CA.

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

In most provinces and territories, rates were higher or similar in northern and rural areas. Ontario was an exception to this trend, as the rate of firearm-related violent crime was higher in southern Ontario (22 per 100,000) and in urban areas (23 per 100,000) when compared to rates in northern Ontario and rural Ontario (13 and 10 per 100,000, respectively).

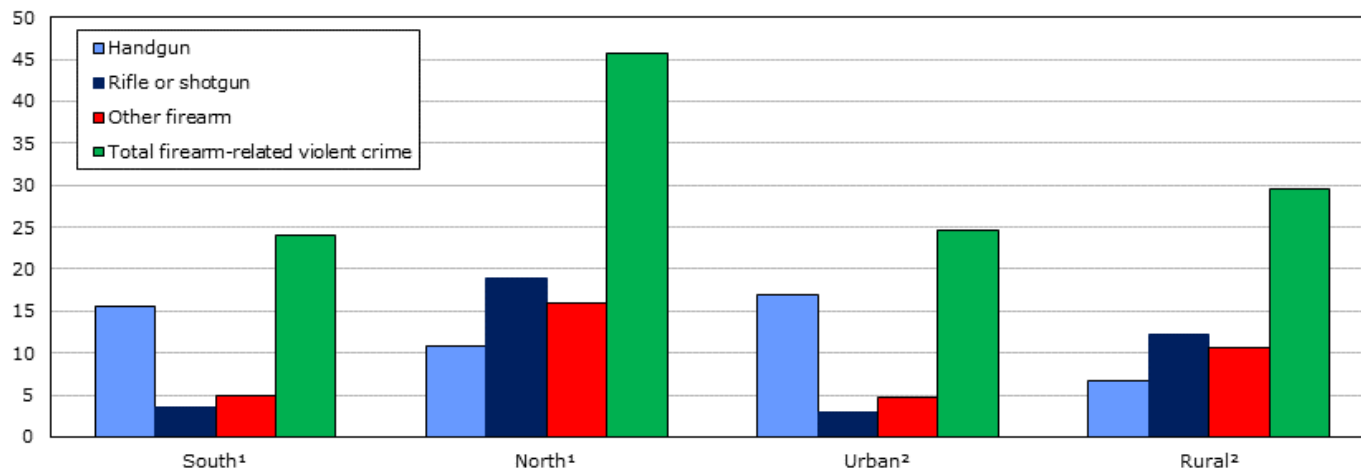
New Brunswick, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia also had higher rates of firearm-related violent crime in their largest cities than in their rural areas, while the rates were virtually equal in Manitoba. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan (68 victims per 100,000 population) and Alberta (53 per 100,000) recorded the highest rates in rural areas.

Violent crime involving handguns tended to occur in southern regions and in urban areas. The rate of handgun-related violence in urban areas was more than double what was reported by police services serving rural areas (17 victims per 100,000 population, versus 7).

On the other hand, the rate of violent crime involving a rifle or shotgun was 4 times higher in rural areas when compared to urban areas (12 versus 3 per 100,000 population) and 5 times higher in the provincial north and territories when compared to the provincial south (19 versus 3.5 per 100,000 population) (Table 6; Chart 6).

Chart 6
Victims of firearm-related violent crime, by north-south region and urban or rural area, 2016

rate per 100,000 population



1. North encompasses the Territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. South refers to the southern regions of these provinces and includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

2. Urban areas include police services where at least half of the population policed is located within a census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA). All police services which do not meet this criteria are coded as rural. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000. A census agglomeration must have a core population of at least 10,000.

Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

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

Many factors can help to explain these higher rates in northern or rural communities. For example, rates of firearm ownership may contribute to higher rates in these communities, as firearms may be required for hunting or farming, and therefore a firearm is more likely to be present when an offence is committed.

Data source

Data are drawn from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

References

Allen, M. and Perreault, S. 2015. "Police-reported crime in Canada's Provincial North and Territories, 2013." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X

Cotter, A. 2014. "Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2012." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X

David, J-D. 2017. "Homicide in Canada, 2016." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X

Munch, C. and Silver, W. 2017. "Measuring organized crime in Canada: Results of a pilot project." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Notes

1. This article includes information on firearm-related violent crime reported by police services through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. All results exclude the province of Quebec due to a large proportion of incidents where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. For detailed analysis on firearm-related homicides based on the most recent Homicide Survey data, see David 2017. Information on the origin of firearms used in the commission of violent offences and the relationship between firearm-related violent crime and organized crime is not available through the UCR. The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics has identified a number of best practices for collecting this information in the UCR moving forward (see Munch and Silver 2017).
2. The Incident-based Uniform Crime (UCR) Survey Trend Database is used in order to facilitate comparisons over time. This database contains all police services who have consistently responded to the UCR Survey over the entire period of the database. As of 2009, the UCR Trend Database includes data reported by police services covering 99% of the population in Canada, while coverage was lower in previous years. In order to maintain the highest level of consistent coverage over time, trend analysis begins in 2009.
3. In the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, firearms are categorized into five groups: fully automatic firearms, sawed-off rifles or shotguns, handguns, rifles or shotguns, and firearm-like weapons or unknown types of firearm. Firearm-like weapons include all weapons that do not meet the *Criminal Code* definition of a firearm and that are capable of propelling any object through a barrel by means of gunpowder, CO₂ (compressed carbon dioxide), or pumped air, such as flare guns, pellet guns, or starter's pistols.
4. Many varying factors can help explain changes in crime rates. In 2013, the Crime Severity Index was 68.8; since the Crime Severity Index became available in 1998, only 2014 recorded a lower value.
5. This information is also reported by police services in Quebec, but is excluded here for the purposes of comparability with other findings. There were 134 incidents of break and enter to steal a firearm in Quebec in 2016, a rate of 1.6 per 100,000. Unlike the national trend, these offences remained relatively stable in Quebec from 2010 to 2015, before declining in 2016.
6. For more information on the methodology behind the mapping of police services, see Allen and Perreault 2015.
7. Urban area includes police services where at least half of the population policed is located within a census metropolitan area or a census agglomeration. A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core as measured by commuting flows derived from previous census place of work data, where 50% or more of the population commutes into the core. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a CMA or CA.
8. Populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by type of firearm, 2009 to 2016

Year	Handgun			Rifle or shotgun			Other firearm ¹			Firearm-like weapon or unknown type of firearm ²			Total firearm-related violent crime		
	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	% of total violent crime ⁴	rate ³
2009	4,590	62.7	17.9	977	13.3	3.8	360	4.9	1.4	1,395	19.1	5.5	7,322	2.3	28.6
2010	3,356	55.8	13.0	1,083	18.0	4.2	262	4.4	1.0	1,311	21.8	5.1	6,012	1.9	23.3
2011	3,251	56.9	12.5	916	16.0	3.5	277	4.8	1.1	1,269	22.2	4.9	5,713	2.0	21.9
2012	3,307	57.1	12.5	942	16.3	3.6	244	4.2	0.9	1,296	22.4	4.9	5,789	2.1	21.9
2013	3,005	58.5	11.2	857	16.7	3.2	236	4.6	0.9	1,036	20.2	3.9	5,134	2.0	19.2
2014	3,460	60.7	12.8	885	15.5	3.3	212	3.7	0.8	1,142	20.0	4.2	5,699	2.3	21.0
2015	4,125	60.5	15.1	1,141	16.7	4.2	306	4.5	1.1	1,244	18.3	4.5	6,816	2.7	24.9
2016	4,249	60.2	15.3	1,226	17.4	4.4	295	4.2	1.1	1,286	18.2	4.6	7,056	2.8	25.5
Percent change from 2013 to 2016	41.4	...	36.7	43.1	...	38.3	25.0	...	20.8	24.1	...	20.0	37.4	...	32.8
Percent change from 2009 to 2016	-7.4	...	-14.5	25.5	...	15.9	-18.1	...	-24.3	-7.8	...	-14.8	-3.6	...	-11.0

... not applicable

1. Includes fully-automatic firearms and sawed-off rifles and/or shotguns.

2. Includes all weapons that do not meet the *Criminal Code* definition of a firearm and that are capable of propelling any object through a barrel by means of gunpowder, CO2 (compressed carbon dioxide), or pumped air, such as flare guns, pellet guns, or starter's pistols. Also includes all firearm-related violent crime where the specific type of firearm was unknown.

3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

4. Percent calculation excludes incidents where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Percentage calculations exclude cases where the weapon is unknown. In order to facilitate comparisons over time, a specific Trend Database is maintained. This database contains only those police services who have consistently responded to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey over the entire period of the database (2009 to 2016). As a result, there are some slight differences between the numbers from the trend database, used for making comparisons over time, and from the data for the individual year 2016, used when discussing characteristics of police-reported violent crime in Canada. Using the trend database, police services who have consistently reported to the UCR Survey each year over the seven year period reported 7,056 victims of firearm-related violent crime in 2016. Using only the 2016 data, police services reported 7,104 victims of firearm-related crime. This is the reason for the differences in the numbers of firearm-related victims in this table when compared to other tables and charts.

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

Table 2
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by type of weapon present and by province and territory, 2016

Province or territory	Firearm			Other weapon ¹			No weapon ²			Unknown		Total	
	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	#	rate ³
Newfoundland and Labrador	66	1.2	12.9	856	16.1	167	4,411	82.7	862	96	...	5,429	1,061
Prince Edward Island	15	1.5	10.1	104	10.1	70	910	88.4	612	42	...	1,071	720
Nova Scotia	117	1.4	12.3	1,167	13.9	123	7,134	84.7	751	195	...	8,613	907
New Brunswick	166	2.1	21.9	1,075	13.7	142	6,617	84.2	874	109	...	7,967	1,052
Ontario	3,052	3.1	21.9	17,348	17.5	124	78,623	79.4	564	1,852	...	100,875	724
Manitoba	625	2.8	48.5	5,363	23.7	416	16,605	73.5	1,287	856	...	23,449	1,818
Saskatchewan	635	3.2	55.9	4,464	22.6	393	14,671	74.2	1,291	926	...	20,696	1,821
Alberta	1,482	3.2	34.8	9,159	20.1	215	35,037	76.7	822	1,821	...	47,499	1,114
British Columbia	864	2.0	18.2	8,191	19.4	172	33,141	78.5	697	699	...	42,895	903
Yukon	19	1.6	50.7	176	14.4	469	1,027	84.0	2,739	88	...	1,310	3,494
Northwest Territories	30	1.0	67.5	366	12.7	823	2,482	86.2	5,581	179	...	3,057	6,874
Nunavut	33	1.3	89.0	335	12.9	903	2,222	85.8	5,992	104	...	2,694	7,265
Canada	7,104	2.7	25.5	48,604	18.8	174	202,880	78.5	728	6,967	...	265,555	953

... not applicable

1. Includes all other weapons other than firearms, such as knives, clubs or blunt instruments, poison, motor vehicles, ligature, or fire.

2. Includes physical force and threats.

3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Percentage calculations exclude cases where the weapon is unknown.

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

Table 3
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by type of weapon present and by census metropolitan area, 2016

Census metropolitan area (CMA)	Firearm			Other weapon ¹			No weapon ²			Unknown		Total	
	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	#	rate ³
Regina	147	5.7	59	696	27.2	281	1,716	67.1	693	63	...	2,622	1,059
Winnipeg	394	4.1	50	2,730	28.1	343	6,602	67.9	830	149	...	9,875	1,241
Moncton	65	3.2	41	325	15.9	207	1,648	80.9	1,048	23	...	2,061	1,310
Edmonton	532	3.8	38	3,157	22.3	228	10,483	74.0	756	302	...	14,474	1,043
Toronto ⁴	1,824	4.6	33	7,673	19.4	137	30,155	76.0	538	861	...	40,513	723
Hamilton ⁵	177	3.6	32	856	17.5	153	3,859	78.9	688	20	...	4,912	876
Saskatoon	98	2.9	31	847	25.2	266	2,410	71.8	757	43	...	3,398	1,067
Windsor	70	3.1	23	440	19.2	144	1,781	77.7	584	5	...	2,296	752
Calgary	324	3.2	22	2,300	22.5	156	7,584	74.3	514	554	...	10,762	730
Ottawa ⁶	216	4.0	21	975	17.8	96	4,276	78.2	422	85	...	5,552	548
Kelowna	40	2.4	20	318	18.8	161	1,330	78.8	675	12	...	1,700	863
Vancouver	506	2.6	20	4,352	22.1	171	14,865	75.4	583	310	...	20,033	785
Kitchener—Cambridge— Waterloo	107	2.4	19	787	17.5	143	3,597	80.1	655	88	...	4,579	834
Brantford	26	1.8	19	279	19.1	201	1,158	79.2	833	5	...	1,468	1,056
Abbotsford—Mission	31	2.1	17	309	21.4	166	1,107	76.5	594	16	...	1,463	785
London	82	2.3	16	681	19.3	132	2,769	78.4	537	112	...	3,644	707
Peterborough	19	2.0	15	138	14.6	112	791	83.4	640	5	...	953	771
St. Catharines—Niagara	69	3.1	15	406	18.2	89	1,757	78.7	387	12	...	2,244	494
Halifax	61	2.0	14	411	13.3	96	2,627	84.8	617	14	...	3,113	731
Barrie	29	2.3	13	182	14.7	84	1,029	83.0	475	43	...	1,283	592
Saint John	14	1.1	11	128	10.2	100	1,117	88.7	873	43	...	1,302	1,018
St. John's	20	1.2	10	281	16.9	135	1,360	81.9	655	56	...	1,717	827
Thunder Bay	11	0.6	9	248	14.5	206	1,446	84.8	1,200	12	...	1,717	1,425
Guelph	11	1.4	8	113	14.1	85	676	84.5	511	21	...	821	620
Victoria	24	0.7	6	459	14.2	124	2,740	85.0	738	112	...	3,335	899
Kingston	10	1.0	6	160	16.6	95	796	82.4	474	13	...	979	584
Greater Sudbury	9	0.8	5	216	18.7	131	931	80.5	564	6	...	1,162	704
Total census metropolitan areas⁷	5,042	3.4	26	30,407	20.2	154	114,831	76.4	581	3,048	...	153,328	776
Non-census metropolitan areas	2,062	1.9	25	18,197	16.8	225	88,049	81.3	1,086	3,919	...	112,227	1,385
Total	7,104	2.7	25	48,604	18.8	174	202,880	78.5	728	6,967	...	265,555	953

... not applicable

1. Includes all other weapons other than firearms, such as knives, clubs or blunt instruments, poison, motor vehicles, ligature, or fire.

2. Includes physical force and threats.

3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

4. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto census metropolitan area.

5. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton census metropolitan area.

6. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa—Gatineau census metropolitan area.

7. Includes Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service. May include a small number of offences that occurred outside of a CMA, as a small part of the population policed by Durham Regional Police Service falls outside of the boundaries of a CMA.

Note: A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. Excludes Quebec due to the large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Weapon is based on the most serious weapon present in the incident. Percentage calculations exclude cases where the weapon is unknown.

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

Table 4
Victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by type of firearm and by province and territory, 2016

Province or territory	Handgun			Rifle or shotgun			Other firearm ¹			Firearm-like weapon or unknown type of firearm ²			Total firearm-related violent crime		
	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	% of total violent crime ⁴	rate ³
Newfoundland and Labrador	8	12.1	1.6	21	31.8	4.1	10	15.2	2.0	27	40.9	5.3	66	1.2	12.9
Prince Edward Island	0	0.0	0.0	6	40.0	4.0	0	0.0	0.0	9	60.0	6.1	15	1.5	10.1
Nova Scotia	46	39.3	4.8	28	23.9	2.9	6	5.1	0.6	37	31.6	3.9	117	1.4	12.3
New Brunswick	85	51.2	11.2	56	33.7	7.4	2	1.2	0.3	23	13.9	3.0	166	2.1	21.9
Ontario	2,344	76.8	16.8	242	7.9	1.7	78	2.6	0.6	388	12.7	2.8	3,052	3.1	21.9
Manitoba	281	45.0	21.8	129	20.6	10.0	23	3.7	1.8	192	30.7	14.9	625	2.8	48.5
Saskatchewan	194	30.6	17.1	212	33.4	18.7	54	8.5	4.8	175	27.6	15.4	635	3.2	55.9
Alberta	741	50.0	17.4	359	24.2	8.4	91	6.1	2.1	291	19.6	6.8	1,482	3.2	34.8
British Columbia	549	63.5	11.6	150	17.4	3.2	32	3.7	0.7	133	15.4	2.8	864	2.0	18.2
Yukon	1	5.3	2.7	9	47.4	24.0	0	0.0	0.0	9	47.4	24.0	19	1.6	50.7
Northwest Territories	11	36.7	24.7	11	36.7	24.7	0	0.0	0.0	8	26.7	18.0	30	1.0	67.5
Nunavut	2	6.1	5.4	22	66.7	59.3	0	0.0	0.0	9	27.3	24.3	33	1.3	89.0
Canada	4,262	60.0	15.3	1,245	17.5	4.5	296	4.2	1.1	1,301	18.3	4.7	7,104	2.7	25.5

1. Includes fully-automatic firearms and sawed-off rifles and/or shotguns.

2. Includes all weapons that do not meet the *Criminal Code* definition of a firearm and that are capable of propelling any object through a barrel by means of gunpowder, CO₂ (compressed carbon dioxide), or pumped air, such as flare guns, pellet guns, or starter's pistols. Also includes all firearm-related violent crime where the specific type of firearm was unknown.

3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

4. Percent calculation excludes incidents where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

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

Table 5
Victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by type of firearm and by census metropolitan area, 2016

Census metropolitan area (CMA)	Handgun			Rifle or shotgun			Other firearm ¹			Firearm-like weapon or unknown type of firearm ²			Total firearm-related violent crime		
	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	% of total violent crime ⁴	rate ³
Regina	38	25.9	15.3	47	32.0	19.0	16	10.9	6.5	46	31.3	18.6	147	5.7	59.4
Winnipeg	244	61.9	30.7	47	11.9	5.9	16	4.1	2.0	87	22.1	10.9	394	4.1	49.5
Moncton	48	73.8	30.5	6	9.2	3.8	0	0.0	0.0	11	16.9	7.0	65	3.2	41.3
Edmonton	325	61.1	23.4	105	19.7	7.6	39	7.3	2.8	63	11.8	4.5	532	3.8	38.3
Toronto ⁵	1,548	84.9	27.6	79	4.3	1.4	40	2.2	0.7	157	8.6	2.8	1,824	4.6	32.5
Hamilton ⁶	133	75.1	23.7	3	1.7	0.5	5	2.8	0.9	36	20.3	6.4	177	3.6	31.5
Saskatoon	50	51.0	15.7	20	20.4	6.3	2	2.0	0.6	26	26.5	8.2	98	2.9	30.8
Windsor	45	64.3	14.7	12	17.1	3.9	2	2.9	0.7	11	15.7	3.6	70	3.1	22.9
Calgary	209	64.5	14.2	45	13.9	3.1	12	3.7	0.8	58	17.9	3.9	324	3.2	22.0
Ottawa ⁷	172	79.6	17.0	11	5.1	1.1	4	1.9	0.4	29	13.4	2.9	216	4.0	21.3
Kelowna	25	62.5	12.7	10	25.0	5.1	2	5.0	1.0	3	7.5	1.5	40	2.4	20.3
Vancouver	378	74.7	14.8	31	6.1	1.2	18	3.6	0.7	79	15.6	3.1	506	2.6	19.8
Kitchener—Cambridge— Waterloo	85	79.4	15.5	2	1.9	0.4	2	1.9	0.4	18	16.8	3.3	107	2.4	19.5
Brantford	21	80.8	15.1	4	15.4	2.9	0	0.0	0.0	1	3.8	0.7	26	1.8	18.7
Abbotsford—Mission	20	64.5	10.7	4	12.9	2.1	0	0.0	0.0	7	22.6	3.8	31	2.1	16.6
London	58	70.7	11.3	6	7.3	1.2	3	3.7	0.6	15	18.3	2.9	82	2.3	15.9
Peterborough	13	68.4	10.5	2	10.5	1.6	0	0.0	0.0	4	21.1	3.2	19	2.0	15.4
St. Catharines—Niagara	48	69.6	10.6	11	15.9	2.4	2	2.9	0.4	8	11.6	1.8	69	3.1	15.2
Halifax	38	62.3	8.9	6	9.8	1.4	3	4.9	0.7	14	23.0	3.3	61	2.0	14.3
Barrie	23	79.3	10.6	3	10.3	1.4	0	0.0	0.0	3	10.3	1.4	29	2.3	13.4
Saint John	9	64.3	7.0	2	14.3	1.6	1	7.1	0.8	2	14.3	1.6	14	1.1	10.9
St. John's	5	25.0	2.4	4	20.0	1.9	1	5.0	0.5	10	50.0	4.8	20	1.2	9.6
Thunder Bay	4	36.4	3.3	5	45.5	4.1	0	0.0	0.0	2	18.2	1.7	11	0.6	9.1
Guelph	3	27.3	2.3	2	18.2	1.5	2	18.2	1.5	4	36.4	3.0	11	1.4	8.3
Victoria	15	62.5	4.0	3	12.5	0.8	3	12.5	0.8	3	12.5	0.8	24	0.7	6.5
Kingston	7	70.0	4.2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	3	30.0	1.8	10	1.0	6.0
Greater Sudbury	2	22.2	1.2	2	22.2	1.2	1	11.1	0.6	4	44.4	2.4	9	0.8	5.4
Total census metropolitan areas⁸	3,647	72.3	18.5	486	9.6	2.5	178	3.5	0.9	731	14.5	3.7	5,042	3.4	25.5
Non-census metropolitan areas	615	29.8	7.6	759	36.8	9.4	118	5.7	1.5	570	27.6	7.0	2,062	1.9	25.4
Total	4,262	60.0	15.3	1,245	17.5	4.5	296	4.2	1.1	1,301	18.3	4.7	7,104	2.7	25.5

1. Includes fully-automatic firearms and sawed-off rifles and/or shotguns.

2. Includes all weapons that do not meet the *Criminal Code* definition of a firearm and that are capable of propelling any object through a barrel by means of gunpowder, CO₂ (compressed carbon dioxide), or pumped air, such as flare guns, pellet guns, or starter's pistols. Also includes all firearm-related violent crime where the specific type of firearm was unknown.

3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

4. Percent calculation excludes incidents where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

5. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto census metropolitan area.

6. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton census metropolitan area.

7. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa—Gatineau census metropolitan area.

8. Includes Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service. May include a small number of offences that occurred outside of a CMA, as a small part of the population policed by Durham Regional Police Service falls outside of the boundaries of a CMA.

Note: A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. Excludes Quebec due to the large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Weapon is based on the most serious weapon present in the incident. Percentage calculations exclude cases where the weapon is unknown.

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

Table 6
Victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by province and territory and north-south region or urban-rural area, 2016

Province or territory	South ¹		North ¹		Urban area ²		Rural area ²		Total	
	#	rate ³	#	rate ³	#	rate ³	#	rate ³	#	rate ³
Newfoundland and Labrador	56	11.6	10	35.9	22	8.3	44	17.7	66	12.9
Prince Edward Island	15	10.1	...	...	5	5.2	10	19.1	15	10.1
Nova Scotia	117	12.3	...	...	85	13.6	32	9.8	117	12.3
New Brunswick	166	21.9	...	...	109	22.8	57	20.4	166	21.9
Ontario	2,949	22.4	103	12.9	2,897	23.3	155	10.5	3,052	21.9
Manitoba	483	40.7	142	136.2	426	47.9	199	49.7	625	48.5
Saskatchewan	526	48.0	109	270.7	347	48.7	288	68.1	635	55.9
Alberta	1,196	31.1	286	69.2	1,078	30.7	404	53.4	1,482	34.8
British Columbia	761	17.2	103	31.8	775	18.4	89	16.5	864	18.2
Yukon	...	...	19	50.7	7	23.0	12	169.0	19	50.7
Northwest Territories	...	...	30	67.5	5	22.7	25	111.6	30	67.5
Nunavut	...	...	33	89.0	...	...	33	89.0	33	89.0
Canada	6,269	24.1	835	45.7	5,756	24.7	1,348	29.5	7,104	25.5

... not applicable

1. North encompasses the Territories as well as the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. South refers to the southern regions of these provinces and includes Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

2. Urban area includes police services where at least half of the population policed is located within a census metropolitan area or a census agglomeration. A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the core. A CA must have a core population of at least 10,000. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the core as measured by commuting flows derived from previous census place of work data, where 50% or more of the population commutes into the core. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a CMA or CA.

3. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

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

Appendix tables

Appendix table 1

Changes in number of victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by census metropolitan area, 2009, 2013, and 2016

Census metropolitan area (CMA)	2016		Percent change in rate from 2013 to 2016	Difference in number of victims from 2013 to 2016	Percent change in rate from 2009 to 2016	Difference in number of victims from 2009 to 2016
	number of victims	rate ¹	percent	number	percent	number
St. John's	20	9.6	-30	-8	15	4
Halifax	61	14.3	-44	-43	-67	-109
Moncton	65	41.3	119	38	154	43
Saint John	14	10.9	-24	-7	-45	-15
Ottawa ²	216	21.3	31	57	-37	-100
Kingston	10	6.0	-30	-4	-63	-16
Peterborough	19	15.4	-28	-7	32	5
Toronto ³	1,824	32.5	83	869	-20	-232
Hamilton ⁴	177	31.5	40	54	-12	-13
St. Catharines–Niagara	69	15.2	4	4	-44	-50
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	107	19.5	28	26	19	23
Brantford	26	18.7	-33	-12	17	5
Guelph	11	8.3	-29	-4	28	3
London	82	15.9	33	22	-33	-33
Windsor	70	22.9	35	19	-8	-5
Barrie	21	9.7	-25	-6	2	8
Greater Sudbury	9	5.4	-55	-11	-71	-22
Thunder Bay	11	9.1	-20	-3	-22	-3
Winnipeg	394	49.5	63	151	27	99
Regina	147	59.4	131	87	117	89
Saskatoon	98	30.8	40	33	-15	3
Calgary	324	22.0	0	23	-38	-110
Edmonton	532	38.3	43	187	47	226
Kelowna	40	20.3	31	11	-22	2
Abbotsford–Mission	31	16.6	-18	-5	-55	-32
Vancouver	506	19.8	-14	-55	-41	-267
Victoria	24	6.5	-25	-7	-60	-33

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

2. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

3. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto census metropolitan area.

4. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton census metropolitan area.

Note: A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. Excludes Quebec due to the large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Percentage calculations exclude cases where the weapon is unknown. In order to facilitate comparisons over time, a specific Trend Database is maintained. This database contains only those police services who have consistently responded to the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey over the entire period of the database (2009 to 2016). As a result, there are some slight differences between the numbers from the trend database, used for making comparisons over time, and from the data for the individual year 2016, used when discussing characteristics of police-reported violent crime in Canada. Using the trend database, police services who have consistently reported to the UCR Survey each year over the seven year period reported 7,056 victims of firearm-related violent crime in 2016. Using only the 2016 data, police services reported 7,104 victims of firearm-related crime. This is the reason for the differences in the numbers of firearm-related victims in this table when compared to other tables and charts.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (Trend Database).

Appendix table 2

Victims of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, by selected offences, Canada, 2016

Offence type	Victims where a firearm was present	
	number	percent
Attempted murder	291	50.2
Murder	195	37.9
Robbery	2,873	18.7
Forcible confinement or kidnapping	61	3.1
Extortion	29	2.6
Uttering threats	599	2.0
Assault (all levels)	1,675	1.0
Sexual assault (all levels)	56	0.4
Criminal harassment	14	0.2
Total violent offences	7,104	2.7

Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Percentage calculations exclude cases where the weapon is unknown. Total does not equal the sum of the categories as not all offences are displayed.

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

Appendix table 3

Persons accused of firearm-related violent crime, by age group, Canada, 2016

Age group (years)	Number	Rate
Youth		
12 to 17	843	46.1
Adults—total	4,139	18.7
18 to 24	1,644	62.6
25 to 34	1,422	36.1
35 to 44	542	14.8
45 to 54	337	8.5
55 to 64	129	3.4
65 to 89	65	1.5
Total	4,982	20.7
Unknown age	1	...

... not applicable

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

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