

Trends in firearm-related violent crime in Canada, 2009 to 2020

by Mary Allen

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Trends in firearm-related violent crime in Canada, 2009 to 2020: Highlights

- Firearm-related violent crime represents a small proportion of police-reported violent crime in Canada, accounting for 2.8% of all victims of violent crime reported by police in 2020.
- In 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were 8,344 victims of police-reported violent crime where a firearm was present during the commission of the offence, or a rate of 29 per 100,000 population. This rate was unchanged compared to 2019. This was not the case in all jurisdictions, however, as rates of firearm-related violent crime increased in some areas and decreased in others.
- Between 2019 and 2020, notable increases in rates of firearm-related violent crime were reported in southern rural British Columbia (+34%), the northern rural part of Ontario (+32%), rural Alberta (+32% in the North and +31% in the South), the Northwest Territories (+23%) and Nova Scotia (+22%).
- Between 2009 and 2013 the rate of victims of firearm-related violent crime in Canada decreased, which aligned with violent crime trends overall. However, rates of victims of firearm-related violent crime started an upward climb in 2014, with the largest documented increase between 2014 and 2015.
- This article examines firearm-related violent crime in the two six-year periods before and after the notable increase in 2015 (between 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020) and shows that the increase occurred in most jurisdictions in Canada.
- Much of the increase in the rate of firearm-related crime between the two six-year periods was the result of a significant increase in the rate of firearm-specific violent offences of discharging a firearm with intent, pointing a firearm, and use of a firearm in an indictable offence.
- In 2020, police reported a total of 743 homicide victims in Canada or a rate of 1.95 per 100,000 population. For 277 of these victims, a firearm was used to commit the homicide (for a rate of 0.73 homicides per 100,000 population). After a gradual decrease between 2009 and 2013, the rate of firearm-related homicides has increased since 2013, with a single decline in 2018. As a result, the proportion of homicides that involved a firearm rose from 26% of all homicides in 2013 to 37% in 2020.
- Handguns were the most serious weapon present in the majority of firearm-related violent crimes both between 2009 and 2014 (59%) and between 2015 and 2020 (59%).
- Rates of firearm-related violent crime were higher in rural areas than in urban centres in most provinces, and were notably high in northern rural regions. However, firearm-related crime generally accounted for a higher proportion of violent crime in urban areas. As such, people living in some rural areas may be more at risk of firearm crime, but violent crime that occurs in urban areas is generally more likely to involve a firearm. In 2020, the only provinces where rural areas had lower rates of firearm-related crime than in urban areas were Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Ontario.
- In 2020, more than six in ten (63%) of the firearm-related violent crime in urban areas involved handguns. In rural areas, the firearm present was most commonly a rifle or shotgun: 46% in the rural South and 39% in the rural North.
- In 2020, over four out of five (83%) victims of violent crime where a firearm was present were either not injured (61%) or they sustained a minor injury that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (22%). Victims of firearm-related violent crime were less likely to be injured than victims where no firearm was present, but were more likely to sustain a serious injury or die.
- The accused in firearm-related violent crimes was most frequently a stranger to the victim in 2020 (for 55% of male victims and 41% of female victims). This was driven, however, by firearm-related violent crime in urban areas.
- Overall, one in four (25%) female victims of firearm-related violent crime was victimized by a current or former spouse or other intimate partner. In contrast, 2.2% of male victims of firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were similarly victims of intimate partner violence. Instead, among victims, a higher proportion of males were victimized by a stranger, friend or casual acquaintance (83% versus 64% of females).
- For women, firearm-related intimate partner violence (IPV) was most frequent in rural areas. In 2020, there were 8.1 female victims of firearm-related IPV per 100,000 female population in the rural South, and 31 per 100,000 in the rural North (compared to 4.1 in urban areas). Firearm-related IPV accounted for nearly one-third (32%) of female victims in the rural South and 38% in the rural North. Although firearm-related IPV for male victims was also higher in rural areas, rates were low compared to females (1.4 per 100,000 males in the rural South, 2.8 per 100,000 in the rural North and 0.9 per 100,000 in urban areas).
- The majority of incidents involving a victim of firearm-related violent crime were solved (with at least one accused identified in the incident), with those in the rural North (83% in 2020) and rural South (72%) more often solved than those in urban areas (54%).
- Individuals accused in firearm-related violent crimes were predominantly male (87% in 2020). Male accused (88%) were more likely than females (82%) to be charged in the incident. Youth (aged 12 to 17 years) were less likely to be charged than young adults and older individuals.
- In 2020, among police services who reported information on organized crime or gang-related criminal activity, 6% of victims of firearm-related violent crime were victims in incidents that police identified as confirmed or suspected to be committed by, and for the benefit of, a criminal organization or street gang. Most (75%) of these victims were male.

Trends in firearm-related violent crime in Canada, 2009 to 2020

by Mary Allen, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics

In 2020, consistent with historical trends, violent *Criminal Code* offences accounted for about one in every five crimes that came to the attention of police. Firearm-related violent crime typically represents less than 3% of police-reported violent crime in Canada; nevertheless, it has a significant emotional and physical impact on victims, families and communities. Additionally, rates of firearm-related violence have seen a general increase over the past several years.

Concern about gun crime is long standing and a variety of approaches have been used to address it, including changes in legislation (see Text box 1). In April 2020, 22 people were killed in a mass shooting in Nova Scotia, the deadliest mass shooting in Canada in recent years. In particular, the Nova Scotia shooting led to a ban on assault-style firearms and renewed discussions around gun control and access to illegal weapons.

This *Juristat* article uses data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey and the Homicide Survey to provide a detailed examination of recent trends in firearm-related crime in Canada and the characteristics of these crimes over time and by region. In this article, firearm-related violent crime refers to victims of violent crimes where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm and where police deemed the presence of the firearm relevant to the incident. Of note, for an incident to be considered firearm-related, a firearm need only be present during the commission of the offence, not necessarily used. This measure does not include non-violent *Criminal Code* offences where a firearm was present, including administrative offences such as unsafe storage, or firearm-specific violent offences such as discharging a firearm with intent where there was no victim identified.

The article is divided into several sections beginning with an “Overview of firearm-related violent crime in 2020” examining geographic differences.¹ This is followed by a section examining factors driving the change in firearm-related crime over 12 years, comparing two time periods (2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020) “Trends in firearm-related violent crime”. The article then examines the “Characteristics of firearm-related violent crime”, especially the types of violations involved and types of firearms present. This is followed by sections on “Characteristics of victims of firearm-related crime” as well as “Characteristics of individuals accused in violent incidents where a firearm was present”. Additional information is provided on non-violent weapons offences and firearm-related violent crimes involving organized crime or street gangs.

The article uses data from the UCR trend file which contains information from 2009 to 2020. The article compares pooled information for the two six-year periods (2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020) to examine factors related to the increased rates of firearm-related violent crime observed in recent years.² Combining the data into two six-year periods allows for a detailed examination of changes related to this overall increase. The periods were defined with reference to 2015 (before and after 2015) as 2015 was the year with the most notable increase in firearm-related crime over the 12 year period and this increase occurred in most jurisdictions. Moreover, 2015 was a notable year for crime in general as it marked the first increase in all police-reported crime since 2003.

This article provides an analysis of police-reported firearm-related violent crime using currently available data. However, there are still many data gaps related to firearms used in crime. Statistics Canada has been working with police services to help improve information available on these types of crime (see Text box 2).

Text box 1 Firearm restrictions in Canada

The *Criminal Code* classifies firearms into three categories: prohibited, restricted, and non-restricted. Prohibited firearms include fully automatic firearms, sawed-off rifles and shotguns and other firearms prescribed to be prohibited in the regulations. Handguns are generally classified as restricted, while rifles and shotguns, also known as long-guns, are usually non-restricted.

Canadian law requires that an individual have a valid license under the *Firearms Act* (1995) in order to own or possess a firearm or to purchase ammunition. Various amendments have been made to the *Criminal Code* and the *Firearms Act* over the past decade. In 2012, Bill C-19 (*Ending the Long-gun Registry Act*) eliminated the registration of non-restricted firearms. Further amendments were later introduced related to restricted and prohibited weapons (Bill C-42, 2015) and to the licensing, tracing and transportation of firearms (Bill C-71, 2019).

In 2020, following the mass shooting in Nova Scotia, the federal government amended regulations by Order in Council to reclassify as prohibited over 1,500 models and variants of assault-style firearms, particularly semi-automatic rifles.

Text box 2**Data gaps related to firearms**

It is important to recognize that there are limitations in our knowledge about firearms used in crime. There is little information currently collected about the characteristics of these firearms, such as details about the exact type of gun, who owned it (e.g., accused, victim, or someone else), how it was stored, or whether the owner was licensed. In addition, while some police services collect information on shootings, there is no consistent definition of a shooting applied by police services in Canada, nor are there consistent criteria used to assess whether a shooting actually occurred (e.g., witness heard shots fired, bullet casings found).

Of particular concern, there is currently little information available to determine the source of firearms used in crime: for example, whether a gun used in a crime was stolen, illegally purchased or smuggled into the country. This information is sometimes not recorded by police services, recorded inconsistently or, in some cases, the information is simply not available. For example, not all firearms are recovered from firearm-related homicides; consequently, only some of these guns are available for tracing.³ The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Canadian National Firearms Tracing Centre and the Firearms Tracing and Enforcement database (FATE) administered by the Ontario Provincial Police provide support to law enforcement agencies when tracing information is required to support a criminal investigation or a prosecution. However, no province requires that investigators send all crime guns for tracing. Finally, success rates of firearm tracing can vary widely due to factors such as damaged or defaced serial numbers or firearms, the route of the firearm over its lifecycle, or method or area of manufacture.

Aside from information about crime guns, there are a number of additional gaps in our knowledge of the nature of firearm-related violence in Canada. The extent to which organized crime is involved in firearm-related violence is currently unclear. Patterns in the ethnicity, Indigenous identity (with the exception of homicide data), and socioeconomic characteristics of both victims and persons accused of firearm-related violence are also unknown.

In light of these data gaps, the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (CCJCSS) at Statistics Canada carried out a feasibility study in consultation with key stakeholders and identified information that could potentially be collected from police services using the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. Consequently, the CCJCSS has made a number of revisions to the UCR Survey starting in 2021. It should be noted that it may take a few years for these changes to be fully implemented by police services in a way that allows the reporting of this information to the UCR.

These changes include:

- collecting information on the number of firearms recovered, seized or stolen in a criminal incident;
- improving measures related to “shootings” by developing a standard definition to be used by police services and adding a variable to the UCR Survey to identify whether a firearm was discharged in an incident; and
- developing a standard definition for a “crime gun” to be used by police services to identify a) firearms (as defined under the *Criminal Code*) that are used or suspected to be used in the commission of a criminal offence, regardless of whether the firearm was possessed legally; or b) a firearm that has an obliterated, altered or removed serial number.

In addition to working to improve data collection for information directly related to firearms, going forward, Statistics Canada is also committed to working with the policing community and key organizations to enable police to report statistics on Indigenous and ethno-cultural groups in police-reported crime statistics for victims and accused persons (see *Collection of data on Indigenous and ethno-cultural groups in Canada’s official police-reported crime statistics*).

Overview of firearm-related violent crime in 2020

This section provides an overview of firearm-related violent crime reported by police in 2020, with a discussion of geographic differences.

Firearm-related violent crime represents less than three percent of violent crime in Canada

Firearm-related violent crime represents a small proportion of police-reported violent crime in Canada. In 2020, police provided information on 8,344 victims in criminal incidents where a firearm was present (29 victims per 100,000 population or 2.8% of victims of violent crime).⁴ Another 21% of victims were involved in incidents where another weapon was the most serious weapon used or present, such as a knife or blunt instrument, or where physical force was used as the weapon or threat. That being said, just over three-quarters (77%) of victims of violent crimes involved an incident where no weapon was present.⁵

Firearm-related violent crime highest in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Territories

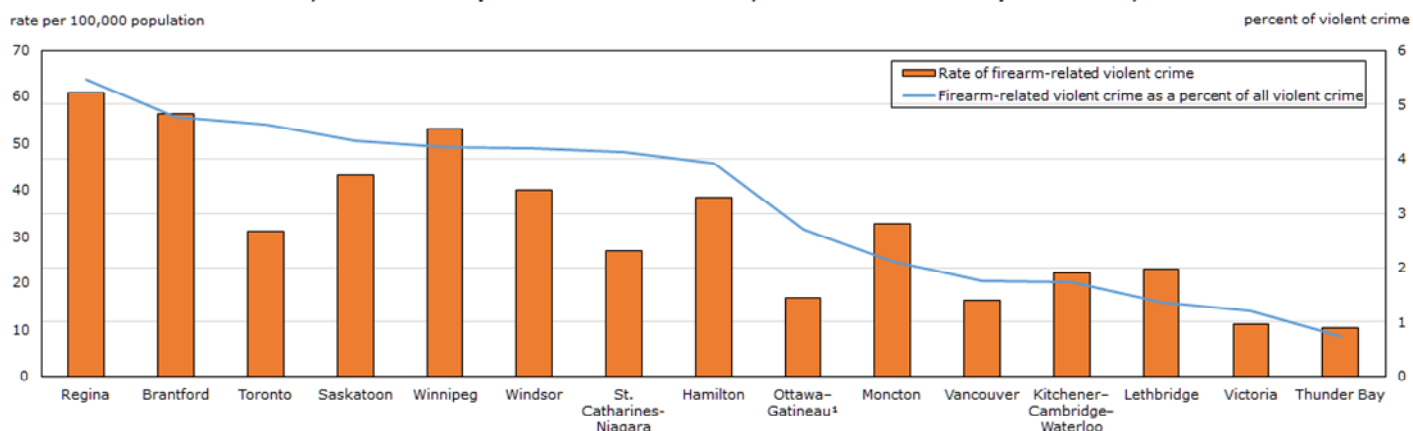
As with violent crime generally, rates of firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were highest in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Territories (Table 1). The Northwest Territories and Nunavut had the highest rates, but rates in the Territories can vary considerably from year to year due to low counts and low populations. The high rates of firearm-related violent crime in Saskatchewan and Manitoba were mainly due to high rates of robbery and major assaults where a firearm was present.⁶ Among the provinces, Saskatchewan reported the second highest combined rate of firearm-related homicide and attempted murder in 2020 (second to Nova Scotia where the high rate was due to the mass shooting in April 2020).⁷

However, because non-firearm-related violent crime was also high in the aforementioned areas, these high rates of firearm-related violent crime may be a reflection of overall high rates of violence (Table 2). For example, in 2020, rates of both firearm-related violent crime and violent crime where a firearm was not present were high in the Territories. As a result, the proportion of all incidents involving a firearm was relatively low (fewer than 2% in all three Territories). The provinces where the proportion of violent crime that was firearm-related was highest were Saskatchewan (3.9%), Alberta (3.4%) and Ontario (3.2%).

This was also the case among major cities. As in 2019, the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) with the highest rates of firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were Regina, Brantford, Winnipeg and Saskatoon (Table 3). However, the CMAs with the highest proportions of violent crimes where a firearm was present were Regina (5.5%), Brantford (4.8%), Toronto (4.6%), Saskatoon (4.3%), Winnipeg (4.2%) and Windsor (4.2%) (Table 4).

For some CMAs, high rates of firearm-related violent crime reflected overall high rates of violent crime in communities (Chart 1). This, however, was not always the case. For example, it is worth noting that Toronto had a relatively low rate of firearm-related violent crime, but these firearm-related crimes accounted for a relatively high proportion of all violent crime.

Chart 1
Firearm-related violent crime, rates and as a percent of all violent crime, selected census metropolitan areas, 2020



1. Ottawa-Gatineau refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
Note: Firearm-related crime is defined as victims of violent crime reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Rates of firearm-related violent crime higher in rural compared to urban areas in most provinces

Firearm-related crime in rural areas differs by province and territory. As in previous years, rates of firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were higher in rural areas than in urban centres in most provinces (Table 1). In 2020, the only provinces where rural areas had lower rates of firearm-related crime than in urban areas were Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Ontario.⁸ A variety of factors can help to explain the higher rates in these areas. For example, more firearm ownership may contribute to higher rates in rural communities, as firearms may be required for hunting or farming, and therefore a firearm may be more often present when an offence is committed.

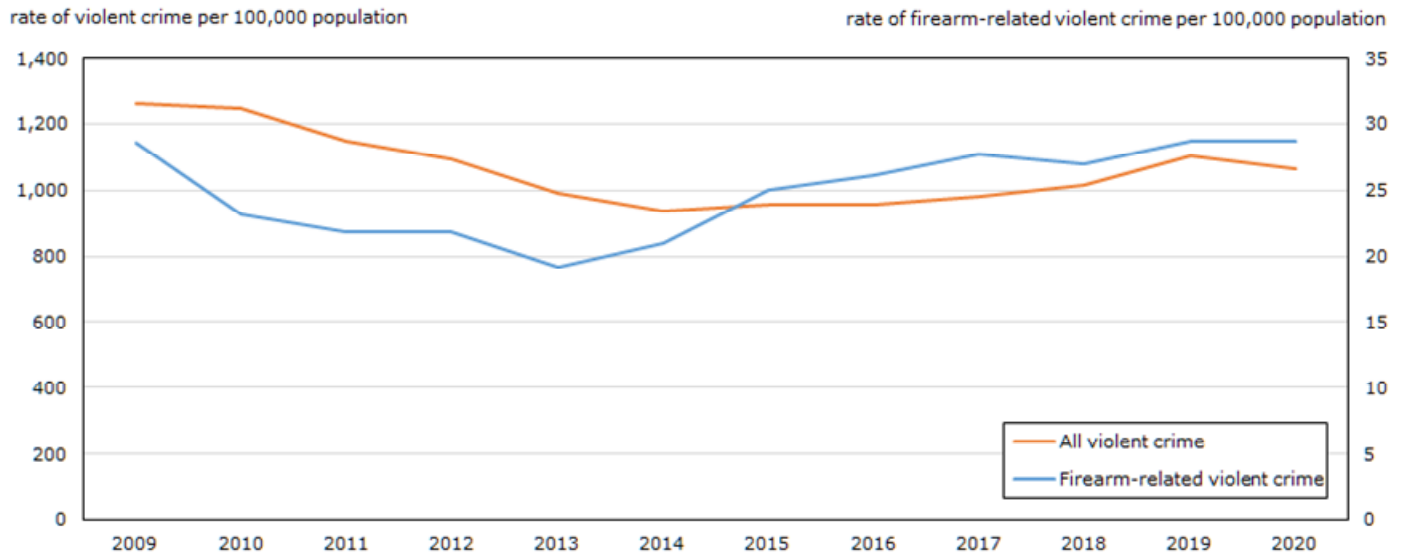
In many provinces, while rates of firearm-related violence were higher in rural areas (particularly in the rural North), violence that involved firearms was *proportionally* more frequent in urban areas (Table 2). In particular, in 2020, the urban jurisdictions where firearms were the most common (as a proportion of violent crimes) were urban centres in Saskatchewan (4.6% of violent crime), Manitoba (3.5%) and Ontario (3.4%).⁹ The rural areas where these proportions were the highest were in Alberta, where firearms were more frequently present in crime in southern rural areas (4.4%) and northern rural areas (3.8%), compared to urban areas (3.2%). Proportions were also high (over 3%) in rural Saskatchewan (3.5% in the rural South and 3.4% in the North), although lower than in urban areas.

Trends in firearm-related violent crime

Increase in firearm-related violent crime since 2013, with large increase in 2015 followed by a gradual climb

Between 2009 and 2013, the rate of victims of firearm-related violent crime in Canada decreased, following a similar trend in overall violent crime. However, firearm-related violent crime started an upward climb in 2014, with the largest increase documented between 2014 and 2015 (Chart 2, Table 1).

Chart 2
Trends in violent crime and firearm-related violent crime, 2009 to 2020



Note: Firearm-related crime is defined as victims of violent crime reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

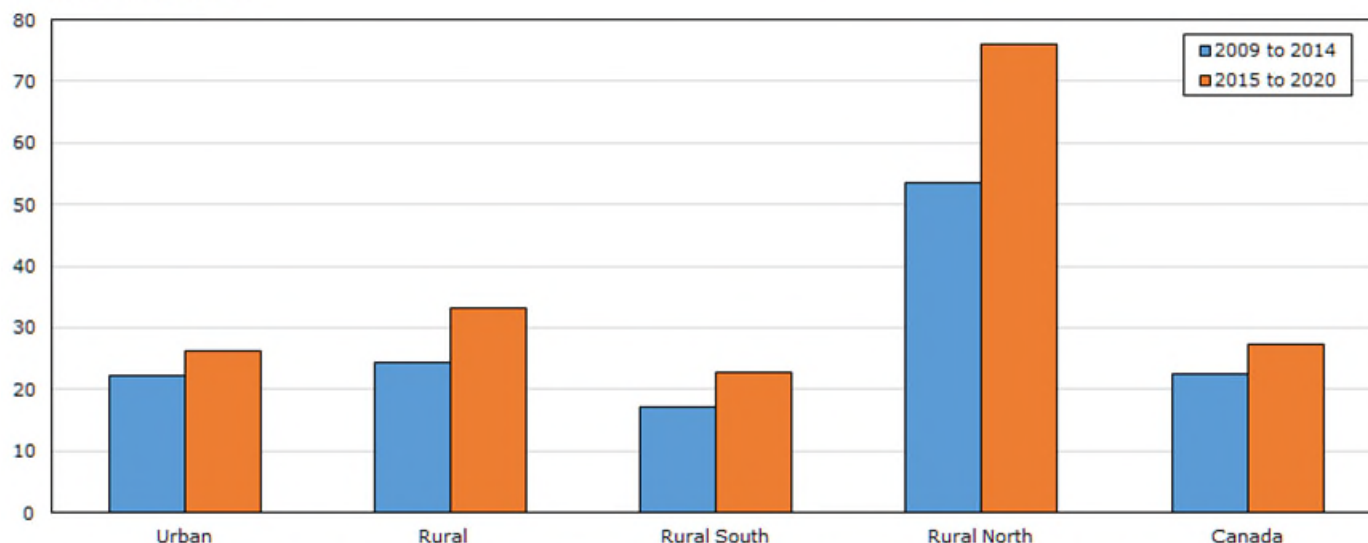
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

The increase in 2015 was reflected in most jurisdictions. For this reason, this analysis compares average rates for the two six-year periods before and after the 2015 increase (2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020). Combining the data into two six-year periods (before and after the notable increase in 2015) allows for the examination of changes related to this overall increase.

Using this approach, the rate of firearm-related violent crime in Canada was found to be 20% higher in the six years from 2015 to 2020 than over the previous six years (2009 to 2014). Rates increased most in the rural North and South, with the highest rates reported in the rural North (Chart 3).¹⁰

Chart 3
Trends in firearm-related violent crime, urban and rural regions, 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020

rate per 100,000 population



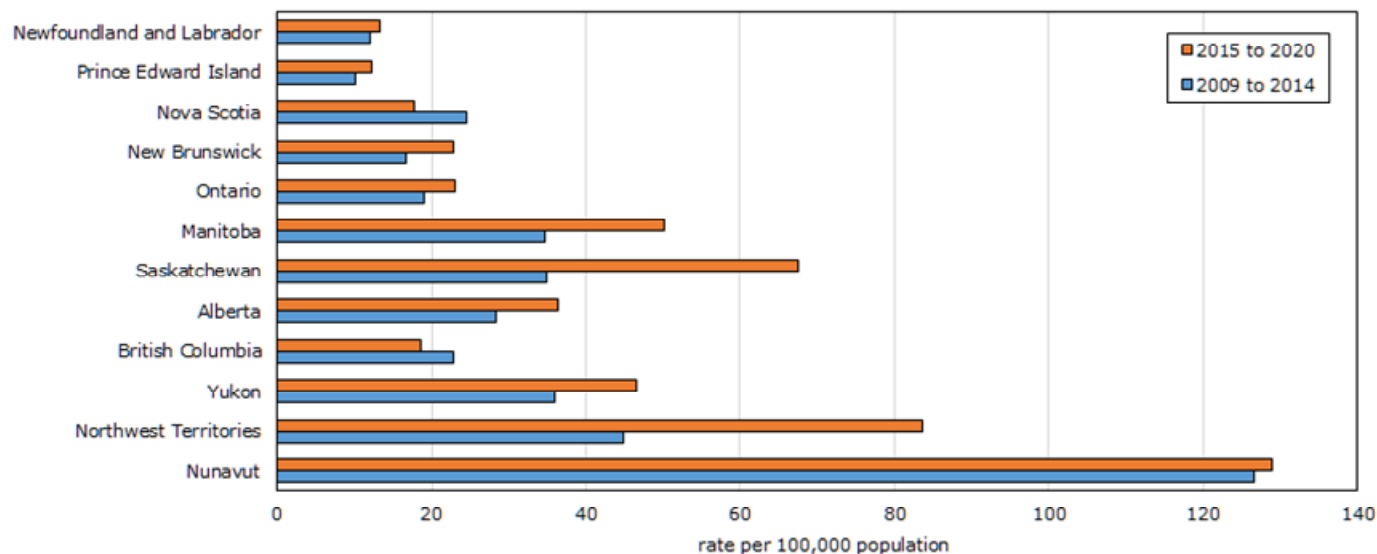
Note: Firearm-related crime is defined as victims of violent crime reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Rural North encompasses rural police services in the Territories as well as in the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. See "Data sources and concepts" section for a full definition of urban, rural South and rural North.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

The largest increases between the two six-year periods examined in this study were seen in Saskatchewan (+93%), the Northwest Territories (+87%) and Manitoba (+44%).¹¹ These jurisdictions also recorded higher average rates of firearm-related crime between 2015 and 2020 than elsewhere, along with Nunavut (Chart 4).

Chart 4
Biggest increases in firearm-related violent crime in Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Manitoba, 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020

Province or territory



Note: Firearm-related crime is defined as victims of violent crime reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Excludes data for the Saint John Municipal Police Service (SJPS) due to data quality concerns. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Among Canada's largest cities (CMAs), the biggest increases between the two time periods were reported in Regina (+136%), Brantford (+74%), Kingston (+59%) and Winnipeg (+55%). Toronto, which accounted for 22% of Canada's victims of firearm-related violent crime in 2020, reported a 35% increase between the two time periods.

While rates of firearm-related violent crime increased in most jurisdictions, there were also notable declines between the two time periods reported in Nova Scotia (-27%) and British Columbia (-19%). Similarly, large decreases were reported in the CMAs of Halifax (-41%), Vancouver (-30%), Kelowna (-25%), Abbotsford–Mission (-24%), Victoria (-19%) and London (-17%). Much of this drop was due to a decline in robberies and major assaults where a firearm was present.¹²

In 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no change in the rate of firearm-related crime nationally compared to 2019, but rates increased in some areas and decreased in others

At the national level, all measures of crime, including violent crime, declined in 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic (Moreau 2021). Between 2019 and 2020, there was no consistent change in rates of violent crime across the country. In 2020, the first year of the pandemic, violent crime increased in some jurisdictions and fell in others; this was also true of firearm-related crime. While the overall rate of victims of firearm-related violent crime in Canada remained unchanged at 29 per 100,000 population, there were some notable changes in certain jurisdictions.

Notable increases in rates of firearm-related violent crime were reported in 2020 in southern rural British Columbia (+34%), the northern rural part of Ontario (+32%), rural Alberta (+32% in the North and +31% in the South), the Northwest Territories (+23%) and Nova Scotia (+22%) (Table 1). The rate in urban Prince Edward Island increased 294%, from 3 to 12 victims. In Nova Scotia, some of the increase in firearm-related violent crime can be attributed to the multiple victim shooting incident in April 2020, as well as a 30% increase in the rate of firearm-related violent crime in Halifax (Table 3).

At the same time, rates of firearm-related violent crime fell substantially between 2019 and 2020 in Nunavut (-49%), Newfoundland and Labrador (-20%), Manitoba (-16%) and urban Saskatchewan (-19%). Again, it is worth noting that rates can vary considerably in jurisdictions where the number of victims is small.¹³ That being said, increases were noted in 15 of Canada's largest cities (CMAs) and decreases were reported in the 13 other CMAs included in the study.¹⁴

Text box 3

Measuring firearm-related crime

This analysis primarily uses a definition of firearm-related violent crime based on the number of victims of violent offences where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm and the police deemed its presence as relevant to the incident.¹⁵ Additional measures of crime involving firearms can also be calculated using other information provided by police.

Statistics Canada collects data on all crimes reported to the police through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. The UCR collects a range of information related to firearms including: *Criminal Code* violations specific to firearms, whether a firearm was present in the commission of a violent offence and whether a victim sustained an injury caused by a firearm. Below are the specific details collected through the UCR.

Most serious weapon present: indicates the most serious weapon present and deemed by police to have been relevant during the commission of a violent crime, regardless of whether or not the weapon was used, and whether or not a victim was involved. This variable captures incidents where a firearm was used against a victim causing injury, used against a victim without causing injury (e.g., as a threat) or was present during the offence but was not used in any manner.

Weapon causing injury: indicates the type of weapon used during the commission of a violent offence if the victim suffered a physical injury.¹⁶

In this article, **firearm-related violent crime** refers to victims of violent crimes in incidents where the most serious weapon present in the incident was a firearm and where police deemed the presence of the firearm relevant to the incident. Of note, for an incident to be considered firearm-related, a firearm need only be present during the commission of the offence, not necessarily used. It excludes violent offences such as discharging a firearm with intent where there was no victim identified.¹⁷

In addition, **firearm-specific violent offences** refer to *Criminal Code* offences which, by definition, involve firearms. These include the offences of discharging a firearm with intent, pointing a firearm, or use of a firearm in the commission of an indictable offence. These offences may be examined where the firearm-specific violent offence is the most serious

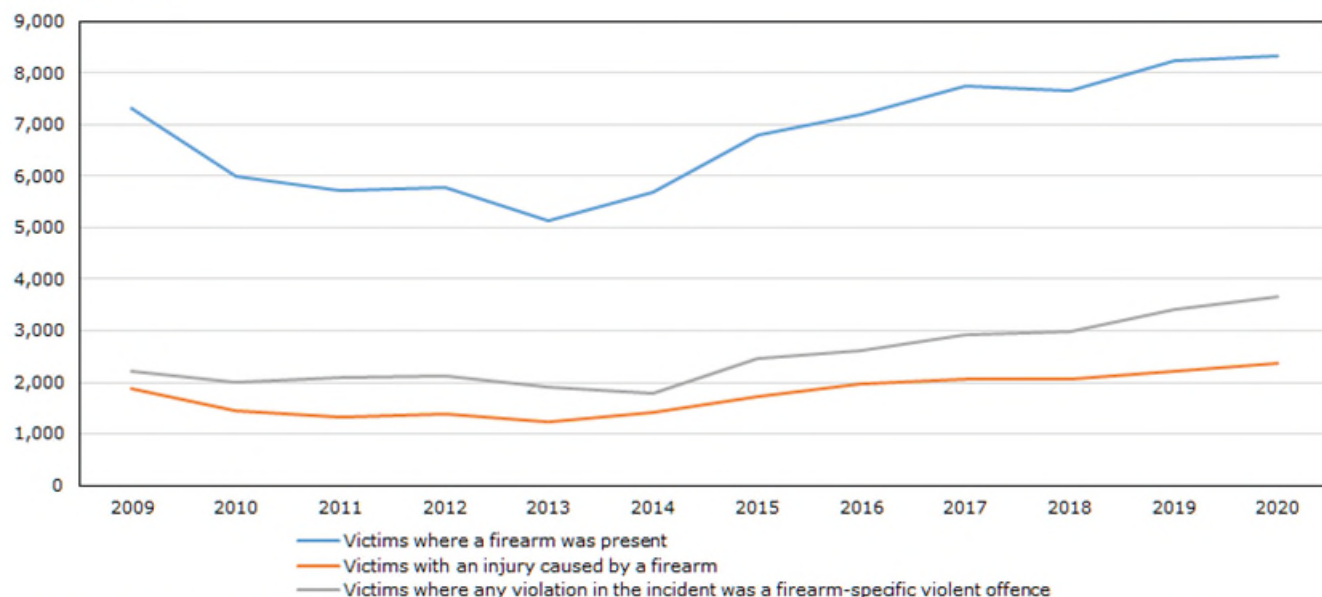
violation, or where it is any violation reported in a criminal incident. It should be noted that police are not required to provide a victim record for these offences.¹⁸

The UCR collects information on violations identified in each criminal incident. One incident can involve multiple offences. In order to ensure comparability, the most serious offence in the incident is determined by a standard classification rule used by all police services. In addition, where there is a victim record, police report the most serious violation committed against the victim.¹⁹ As a result, it is possible to measure the number of victims of firearm-specific violent offences (the main method for this report) as well as incidents where a firearm-specific violent offence was reported as any violation in the incident.

A comparison of trends using these various measures shows similar trends in the number of victims of violent crime that in some way involve a firearm (Chart 5).²⁰

Chart 5
Different measures show similar trends in crimes involving firearms, 2009 to 2020

number of victims



Note: Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. This chart presents different measures of crime involving firearms and is not limited to incidents where a firearm was present.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Information is also available for **non-violent weapons offences**, including those that involve firearms, such as illegal possession, unsafe storage of a firearm, weapons trafficking or improper documentation of a firearm.

In addition to these measures using the UCR, information is also collected through the Homicide Survey where a firearm (or other weapon) is used to commit the homicide (see Text box 4).

Much of the increase in firearm-related violent crime due to increases in discharging a firearm with intent

Firearm-related violent crime between 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020 increased in most jurisdictions in Canada and no specific geographic region disproportionately explains the change.

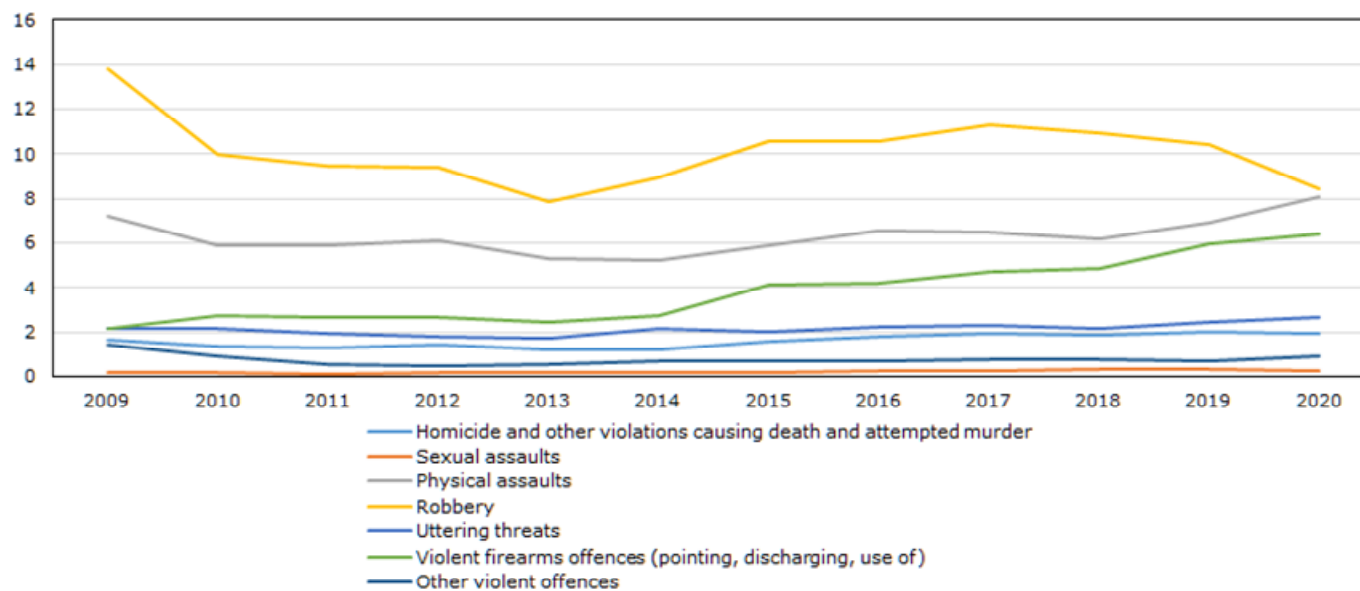
Similarly, the overall increase in firearm-related violent crime was not disproportionately impacted by the types of firearm present in these crimes. In both time periods, the majority (59%) of firearm-related violent crimes involved a handgun as the most serious firearm present, and these crimes accounted for a similar proportion of the increase (59%). In other words, there was no disproportionate increase in handgun crime to explain the growth of firearm crime overall.

However, an examination of the offences reported in these crimes shows that the increase in firearm-related violent crime reflects a notable change in the type of crimes these represent (Chart 6). Nationally, over half of the increase in the rate of firearm-related violent crime was due to a substantial increase (+96%) between the two time periods in the three firearm-specific violent offences: discharging a firearm with intent,²¹ pointing a firearm and use of a firearm in an indictable offence.²² Together, these violations accounted for 11% of victims of firearm-related violent crime between 2009 and 2014

and 19% between 2015 and 2020. More notably, victims of these offences have increased from less than one in ten (8%) firearm-related violent crimes in 2009 to more than one in five in 2019 (21%) and in 2020 (22%). In particular, the average rate of discharging a firearm with intent was more than three times higher between 2015 and 2020 compared to the earlier period (increasing from 0.63 per 100,000 population to 2.07). The increase in this specific violation accounted for almost one-third of the overall increase in firearm-related violent crime between the two periods.

Chart 6
Trends in firearm-related violent crime by most serious violation against the victim, 2009 to 2020

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Firearm-related crime is defined as victims of violent crime reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

In addition to the increase in firearm-specific violent offences, there were increases in the presence of firearms for all major categories of violent offences. In particular, changes in the rates of firearm-related robberies had an impact on firearm-related violent crime in many jurisdictions.

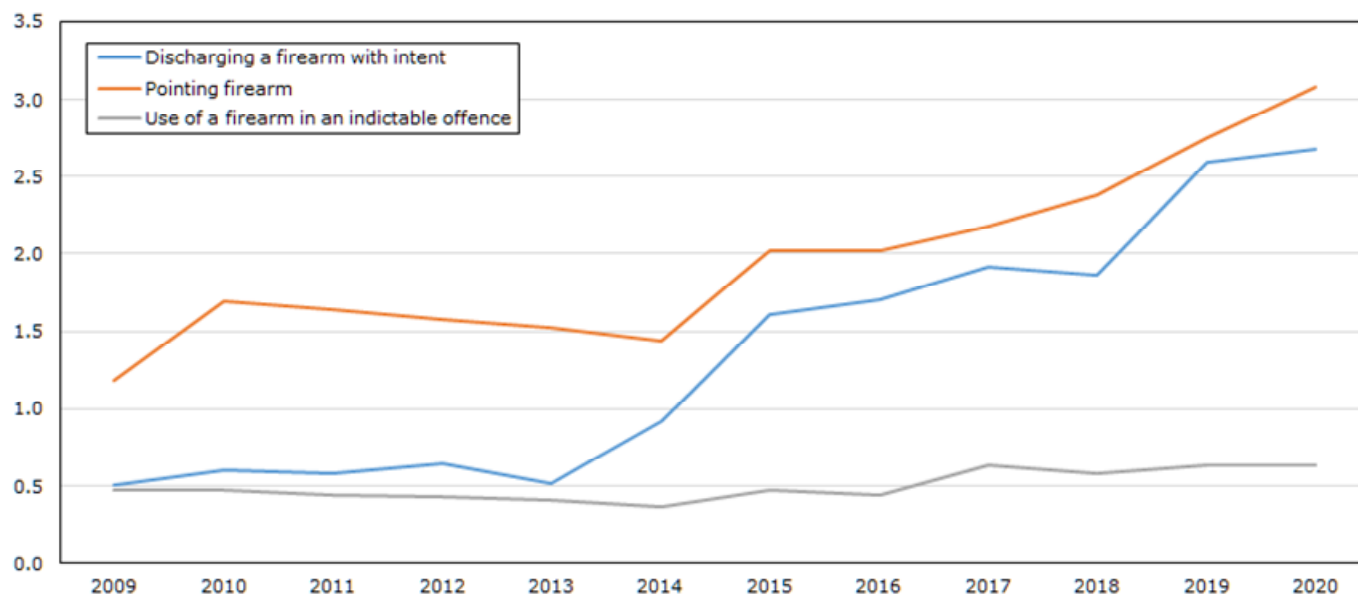
It is important to note that police are not required to provide information on victims for these firearm-specific violent offences as well as some other violent offences. Because the measure of firearm-related crime is based on victim counts, the reporting of victim information by police services and any changes in those reporting practices will have an impact on the results. For example, part of the increase in victims of firearm-specific violent offences observed in 2015 can be attributed to improvements made in the reporting of victim information for these offences by the Toronto Police Service (TPS). In particular, for incidents involving discharging a firearm with intent, prior to 2013, the TPS did not provide information on victims of this offence. Starting in 2013, the TPS made improvements to their reporting on these incidents which were fully implemented in 2015. While this change in reporting has a notable impact on the increase in the number of victims of firearm-specific violent offences reported, the impact on national rates of firearm-related violent crime overall was relatively small.

Notable increase in rates of firearm-specific violent offences, especially discharging a firearm with intent

The firearm-specific violent offences referred to in this article are discharging a firearm with intent (*Criminal Code* section 244), pointing a firearm (*Criminal Code* s. 87) and the use of a firearm in the commission of an indictable offence (*Criminal Code* s. 85). The large increase in these offences between the two periods was driven primarily by increased rates of discharging a firearm with intent, for which rates increased considerably in 2014 and 2015 and then continued to climb, along with the rate of victims of pointing a firearm. While the largest increase in firearm-specific violent offences occurred in 2015, rates continued to increase thereafter (Chart 7). Between 2015 and 2020, rates of victims of these offences increased 55% nationally.

Chart 7
Trends in firearm-specific violent offences, 2009 to 2020

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Firearm-related crime is defined as victims of violent crime reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

The increase in firearm-specific violent offences before and after 2015 was greatest in urban areas. Over half of the increase in this category of offence was reported in urban areas in Ontario (an increase of 244% between the two periods). As noted above, changes in the reporting of victim records by the Toronto Police Service explain some of this change. Increases in Hamilton and Windsor also had an impact.

There were also notable increases (more than doubling) in urban areas in Manitoba (+167%), Saskatchewan (+129%) and Alberta (+105%).²³ Rates of these offences also more than doubled in northern rural Newfoundland and Labrador (+181%) and northern rural Saskatchewan (+132%). At the same time, there was a decline between the two periods in urban areas in Nova Scotia (-14%) and British Columbia (-4%).²⁴

In 2020, four in ten victims of firearm-related violent crime were victims of an incident involving a firearm-specific violent offence

In 2020, police reported 1,858 victims where a firearm-specific violent offence was the most serious violation against the victim (22% of firearm-related violent crime). In addition, for another 1,568 victims of firearm-related violent crime (19%), a firearm-specific violent offence was identified as another violation in the incident.²⁵ Most of this latter group were victims of a major assault (levels 2 or 3) (37%) or robbery (31%).²⁶

In total, police reported information on 3,426 victims where there was a firearm-specific violent offence reported as any violation in the incident. Of these, 1,200 victims of firearm-related violent crime were in an incident involving discharging a firearm with intent (14% of all victims of firearm-related crime).²⁷

For one-third (33%) of victims where any violation was a firearm-specific violent offence, the incident also involved a non-violent weapons offence, primarily for possession of a weapon.

For 1.9% of victims of firearm-related crime in 2020, there was also a drug violation reported in the incident. Where any violation in the incident was a firearm-specific violent offence, the proportion of crimes involving a drug offence was similar (2.2%).

Two-thirds of victims (66%) where any violation was a firearm-specific violent offence had no physical injury. Another 19% sustained minor injuries not requiring medical treatment other than first aid, and 9% sustained a major injury.²⁸ Overall, among those who sustained injuries, a firearm was most often the cause of the injury (for 70% where the injury was minor and 89% where it was a major injury).

Compared to firearm-related crimes generally, injuries were more frequent when discharging a firearm was reported as any violation in the incident: about half (51%) of these victims had no injury, 22% sustained a minor injury and 19% a major injury.²⁹ In addition, when injured, a firearm was more often the cause of the injury (81% for minor injuries and 98% for major injuries) compared to all victims of firearm-related crime. See the section on “Characteristics of victims of firearm-related violent crime” for a more general discussion of injuries among victims of firearm-related crime.

Characteristics of firearm-related violent crime

This section focusses on the characteristics of firearm-related violent crime, examining the types of offences involved, with a particular focus on homicides committed with a firearm (Text box 4). It also examines the types of firearm present and how this differs in urban and rural regions. A text box on non-violent firearm offences is also provided (Text box 5).

Majority of firearm-related violent crime is robbery or major assault

The majority of victims of firearm-related violent crime in Canada in 2020 were victims of robbery (29%) or major assault (23%).³⁰ Firearm-specific violent offences accounted for another 22% of victims of firearm-related violent crime.³¹

Among all offences other than those specific to firearms, the violations that were most likely to involve a firearm were homicides and other violations causing death and attempted murder (45% in 2020, combined) and robberies (18% in 2020; Table 5). Moreover, as with firearm-related violent crime overall, firearms have become more common in these crimes. The proportion of homicides and other violations causing death and attempted murder involving a firearm grew from 36% of victims of these offences between 2009 and 2014 to 43% between 2015 and 2020. Among robberies, the proportion involving the presence of a firearm increased from 14% to 19%. Among major assaults, there was little change (3.2% to 3.3%).

Firearms were present less often among other violent offences, accounting for 2.2% of victims of uttering threats in 2020, and less than 1% of sexual offences, common assault and other assaults.

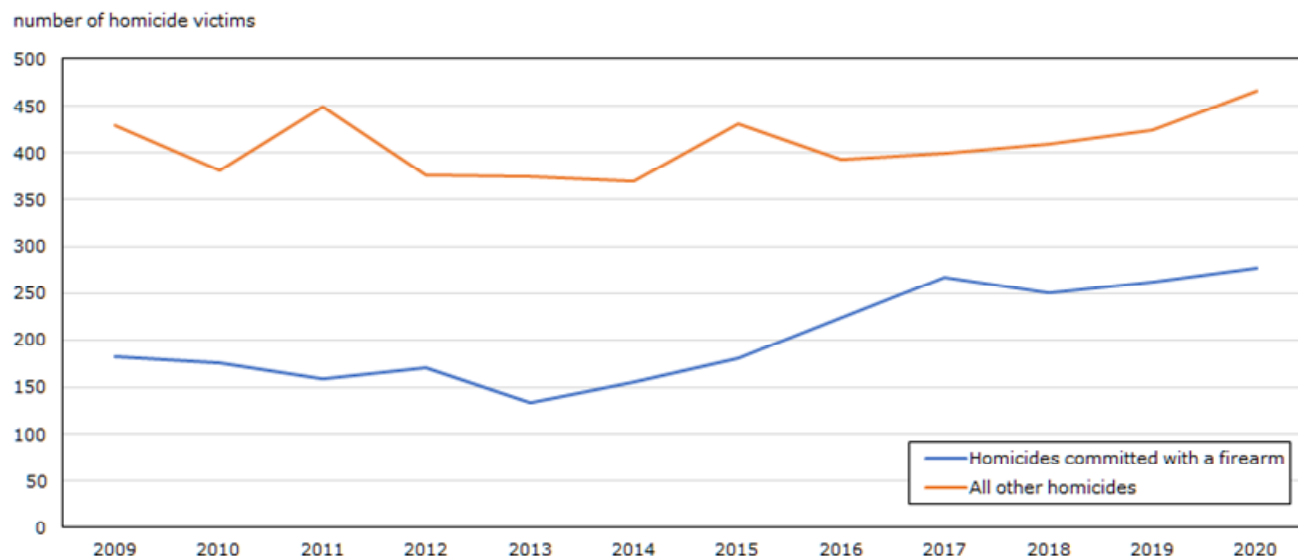
Text box 4

Firearm-related homicides

In addition to information from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, Statistics Canada also collects information on homicides in Canada in a separate survey. This text box uses data from the Homicide Survey, including detailed information on the characteristics of victims and accused as well as gang-related homicides. This section also includes information on firearm-related homicides reported in Quebec.

In 2020, police reported a total of 743 homicide victims in Canada or a rate of 1.95 per 100,000 population. For 277 of these victims, a firearm was used to commit the homicide (for a rate of 0.73 homicides per 100,000 population). After a gradual decrease between 2009 and 2013, the rate of firearm-related homicides has increased since 2013, with a single decline in 2018 (Chart 8). As a result, the proportion of homicides that involved a firearm rose from 26% of all homicides in 2013 to 37% in 2020.

Chart 8
Firearm-related homicides in Canada, 2009 to 2020



Note: Other homicides include homicides committed with any other weapon (e.g., knife, club, blunt instrument), as well as homicides committed without the use of a weapon (e.g., physical force). Includes homicides where the weapon used was unknown.

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

In 2020, the province with the highest rate of firearm-related homicide was Nova Scotia (2.45) due to the mass shooting in April 2020, which accounted for 22 homicide victims. This mass shooting had a significant impact on the firearm-related homicide number and rate in both Nova Scotia and nationally. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan (1.53) and Alberta (1.31) also reported high rates of firearm-related homicides in 2020 (Table 6; Table 7).³² Between 2019 and 2020, the rate of firearm-related homicides in Canada increased 5% (with 15 additional victims). This increase was driven primarily by the increases in Nova Scotia and Alberta. In contrast, almost every other province saw decreases in the number of firearm-related homicides.

Between 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020, there was a 40% increase in the rate of firearm-related homicides, a greater increase than what was observed for firearm-related violent crime overall (+20%). This increase was greatest in the rural North (+54%) and in urban areas (+43%). While increases were reported in most provinces, the most notable increases between the two periods were in Saskatchewan (+165%) and New Brunswick (+138%).^{33 34} In contrast, rates of firearm-related homicides decreased between the two time periods in Newfoundland and Labrador (-70%), Prince Edward Island (-53%) and Quebec (-5%).³⁵

Handguns were the most common type of firearm in homicides in both time periods in this study, but they were proportionally less frequently used in homicides between 2015 and 2020 (54%) than in the previous six-year period (63%). Instead, the proportion of homicides committed with a rifle or shotgun increased between the two time periods (from 28% to 31% of firearm-related homicides). This shift occurred in urban as well as rural areas. However, it is worth noting that, as with firearm-related violent crime generally, handguns were much more likely to be used in firearm-related homicides in urban areas (62% between 2015 and 2020) than in the rural South (22%) or rural North (9%).

Among homicides that had been solved, there were notable differences between male and female victims of firearm-related homicides when it came to the relationship of the accused to the victim. Between 2015 and 2020, among male victims of firearm-related homicides, the accused was most often a friend, neighbour or casual acquaintance (40%), shared a criminal relationship (24%) or was a stranger (23%) to the victim.³⁶ Female victims, however, were more likely to be victims of intimate partner violence, as the accused was most often a current or former spouse (41%) or other intimate partner (14%). Another 15% of female victims were victims of another family member, 14% were victims of a friend, neighbour or casual acquaintance and 11% were killed by a stranger. Females were more likely to be killed by a spouse, intimate partner or other family member in the rural South (84% combined) and the rural North (81%), compared to urban areas (62%).

Between 2015 and 2020, about seven in ten firearm-related homicides in urban areas (73%) and in the rural South (69%) were premeditated (first-degree murder). This was less common in the rural North (54%), where proportionally more homicides were second-degree murder (41% compared to 25% in urban areas and in the rural South). This pattern reflects regional differences in homicides generally.

In urban areas, where a motive was identified, almost half (46%) of firearm-related homicides between 2015 and 2020 were motivated by a settling of accounts or debts, or related to illegal drug trade activities (compared to 19% in the rural South and 17% in the rural North).³⁷ In rural areas, homicides resulting from an argument or quarrel, or frustration, anger or despair were proportionally more frequent than in urban areas (50% in the rural South and 53% in the rural North compared to 25% in urban areas).

Almost three-quarters (72% or 107 homicides) of the 148 gang-related homicides reported in 2020 were committed with a firearm, the lowest proportion since 2013.³⁸ Put differently, gang activity was confirmed or suspected in 39% of all firearm-related homicides. Overall, gang-related homicides committed with a firearm represented 14% of all homicides in 2020, compared to 20% the year before and 19% in 2018.

Most (63%) gang firearm-related homicides in 2020 were committed with a handgun. In both periods examined in this report, a handgun was the most common firearm used in gang-related firearm-related homicides, but they were proportionally fewer after 2015 (76% of gang-related homicides between 2009 and 2014 and 67% between 2015 and 2020). Instead, rifles or shotguns (9% between 2009 and 2014 compared to 14% in the later period) or an unknown type of firearm (from 14% to 19% in the later period) became more common in gang-related homicides committed with a firearm.³⁹

In 2020, the firearm was recovered in just 39% of firearm-related homicides (109 of 277 firearm-related homicides). Of those where the firearm was recovered, 69% were sent for tracing. For 60% of the 75 firearms sent for tracing in 2020, the origin was unknown, meaning they had either not received the results or the trace was unsuccessful. Another 18.7% originated from Canada, 18.6% from the US and 2.7% from other countries.

Nationally, firearm-related homicides account for about one in five firearm-related fatalities. According to the 2019 vital statistics death database (the latest year for which figures are available), there were a total of 708 deaths in Canada from firearm-related injuries compared to 680 in 2018. Among these, 75% were suicides, 23% were homicides and 2% were classified as accidental (Statistics Canada 2020).

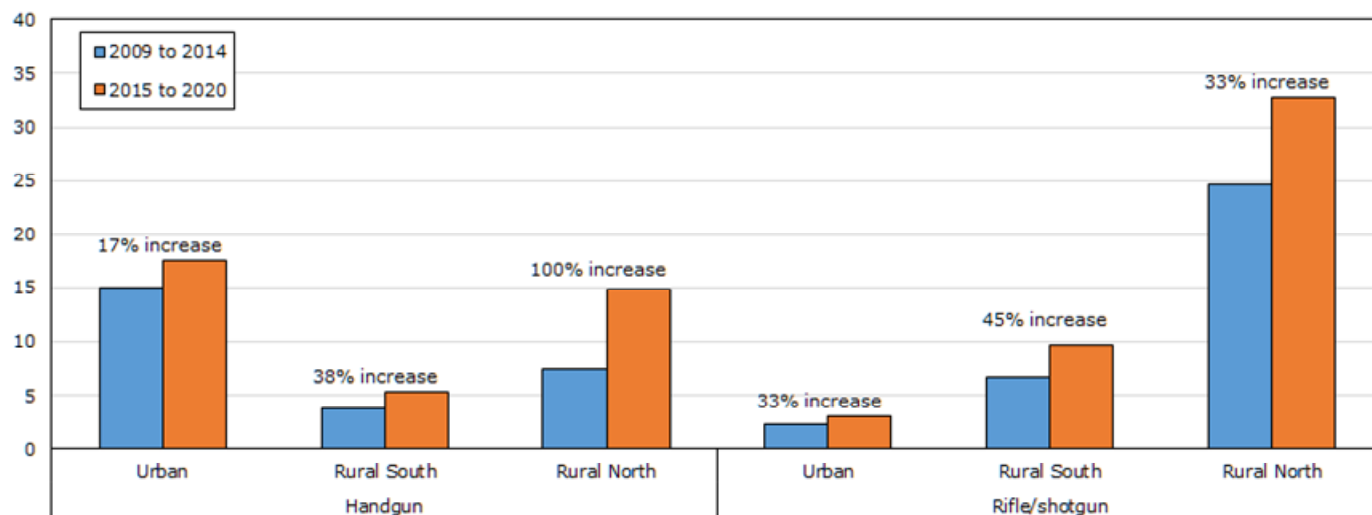
Firearm-related violent crimes in urban areas most often involve handguns, while rifles or shotguns are more often used in rural areas

In 2020, for most victims of firearm-related violent crime in urban areas (63%) and in most CMAs, the incident involved handguns (Table 8).⁴⁰ Handguns were the most common firearm present in Toronto (86% of firearm-related violent crime), Windsor (80%), Ottawa (78%) and Barrie (78%). The CMAs with the highest rates of handgun-related crime were Windsor, Brantford, Hamilton, Toronto and Winnipeg (Table 9).

In contrast, rifles and shotguns were most frequently present in the commission of a firearm-related violent crime in rural areas (46% in the rural South and 39% in the rural North). While rates of handgun-related crimes were generally higher in urban areas than in rural areas, the highest rates of handgun-related crime in Canada were reported in northern Saskatchewan, which is all rural, and the Northwest Territories. Moreover, rates of handgun-related crime in Canada's rural North were considerably higher between 2015 and 2020 compared to the previous six-year period (Chart 9).

Chart 9
Increases in gun crime by gun type, urban and rural regions, 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Firearm-related crime is defined as victims of violent crime reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes fully automatic firearms and sawed-off rifles or shotguns.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Crimes involving other firearms (i.e., sawed-off rifles or shotguns, or fully automatic firearms) were relatively rare, accounting for 5% of firearm-related violent crime in urban areas, 8% in the rural South, and 5% in the rural North.

Other firearm-like weapons, such as a pellet gun or flare gun, or an unknown type of firearms, accounted for 23% of firearm-related violent crime in Canada in 2020. These were also proportionally more frequent in the rural South (29%) and rural North (32%) than in urban areas (20%). Between 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020, rates of crimes involving firearm-like weapons increased 6% in urban areas, 4% in the rural South and 26% in the rural North.

In 2020, handguns accounted for the majority of firearm-related violent crime in robberies (75% in 2020), homicides, other violations causing death and attempted murders (60% combined), sexual offences (54%) and firearm-specific violent offences (51%) (Table 10).

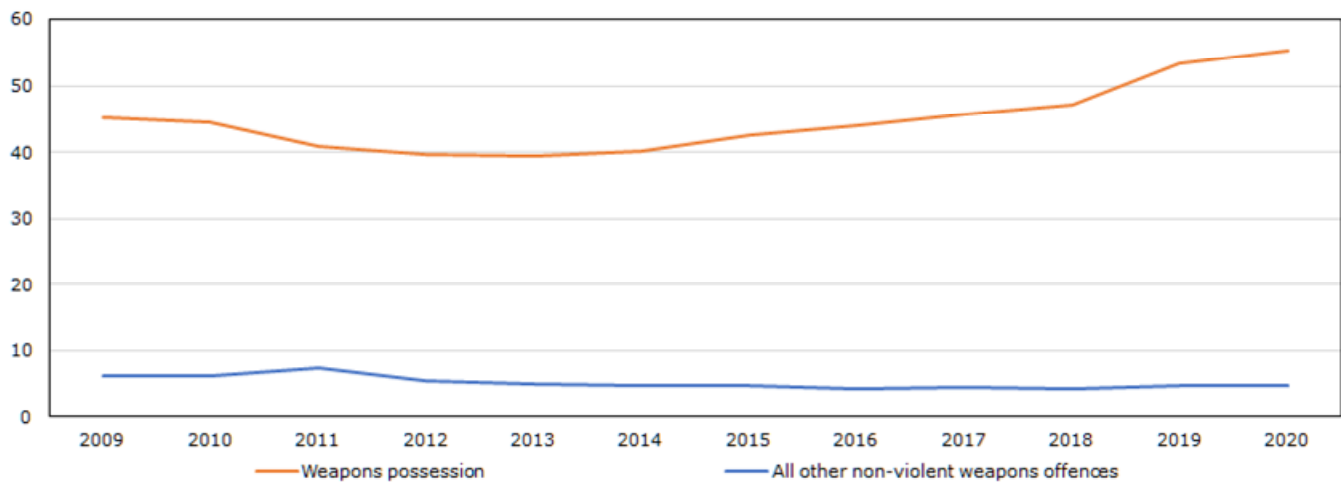
Text box 5
Non-violent weapons offences

Not all crime involving firearms is classified as violent according to police reported data. In addition to the information on weapons present in the commission of a violent criminal offence, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey also captures information on non-violent weapons offences, including those that involve firearms, such as illegal possession, unsafe storage of a firearm, weapons trafficking or improper documentation of a firearm. In 2020, police reported more than 17,000 non-violent weapons offences.⁴¹ This represented 60 incidents per 100,000 population, a 3% increase from 2019. The vast majority (92%) of these violations were offences related to illegal possession of weapons and breach offences for weapons possession contrary to an order.

Rates of weapons possession offences have been increasing since 2013 (Chart 10). Other non-violent weapons offences declined or remained stable over this period, with the exception of weapons trafficking, including unauthorized importing or exporting, which increased in both 2019 and 2020.

Chart 10
Trend in non-violent weapons offences, 2009 to 2020

rate per 100,000 population



Note: Rates of incidents are based on the most serious violation in the incident. Excludes Quebec for comparison to rates of firearm-related violent crime. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Rates of non-violent weapons offences higher in the rural North

As with the rates of firearm-related violent crime which were three times higher in the rural North than in urban areas in 2020, rates of non-violent weapons offences were similarly higher in these areas (Text table 1). Overall, rates of police-reported weapons offences were not notably different in the rural South than in urban areas. However, compared to urban areas, rates of unsafe storage of a firearm were 3.5 times higher in the rural South and eight times higher in the rural North.

Text table 1
Rates of non-violent weapons offences, Canada, 2020

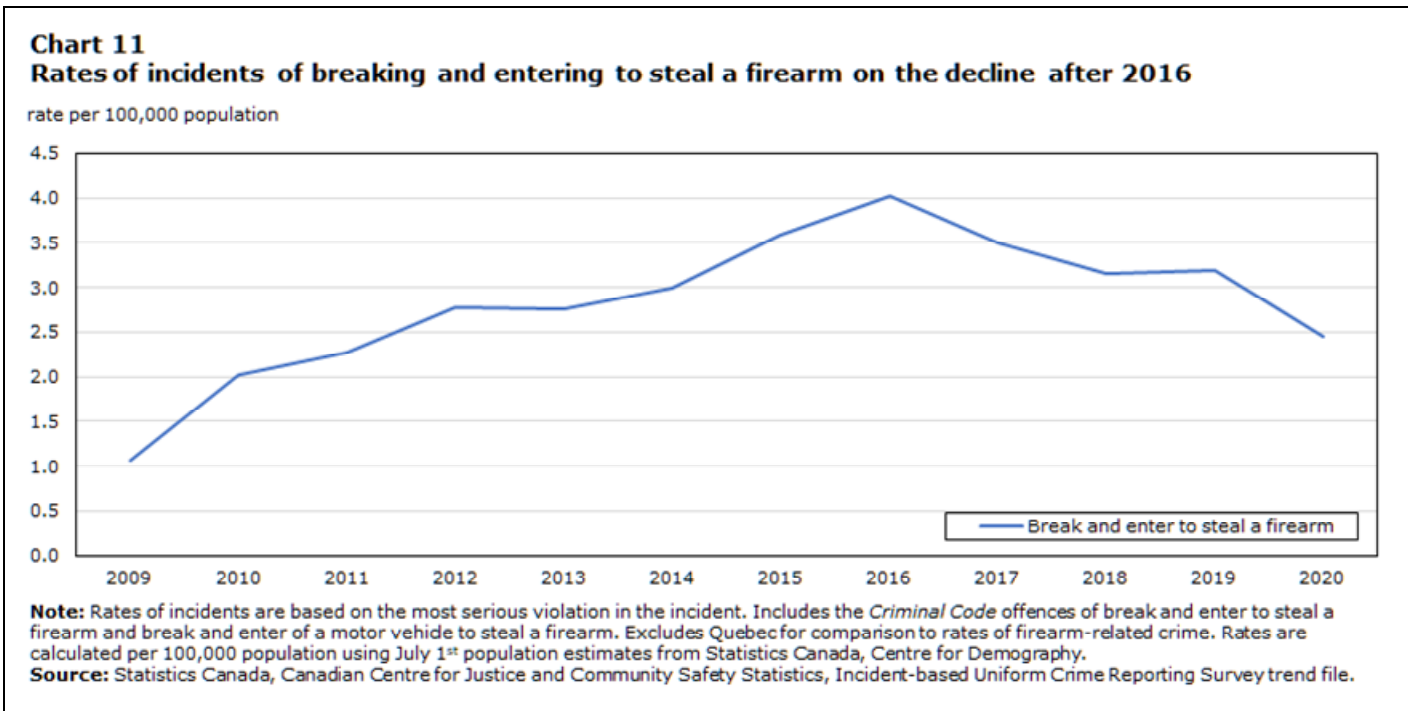
Violation	Urban	Rural South	Rural North	Canada
	rate			
Weapons possession	52.5	51.2	151.3	55.2
Unsafe storage	1.8	6.1	13.9	2.6
Trafficking import export	0.7	1.1	2.0	0.8
Other weapons offences	1.2	2.5	4.3	1.4
Total	56.2	60.9	171.5	60.1

Note: Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Breaking and entering to steal a firearm has been dropping since 2016

In 2020, there were 713 incidents of breaking and entering where the incident was specifically committed in order to steal a firearm. This represented a rate of 2.4 incidents per 100,000 population and includes breaking and entering to steal a firearm as well as specifically breaking and entering a motor vehicle in order to steal a firearm. Rates of these offences increased between 2009 and 2016, from 291 incidents reported in 2009 to 1,111 incidents reported in 2016. Since then rates have been generally decreasing (Chart 11).



Characteristics of victims of firearm-related violent crime

This section examines the age and gender of victims of firearm-related violent crime, as well as whether they were injured. In addition, it looks at the relationship of the accused to the victim, with a focus on intimate partner violence (IPV).

Most victims of firearm-related violent crime are male, but female victims account for a higher proportion of victims in rural than in urban areas

Victims of violent crimes involving firearms were more often male. In 2020, male victims accounted for two-thirds (67%) of victims of firearm-related violent crime (Table 11).⁴² In comparison, among victims of non-firearm-related violent crime, 46% were male and 54% were female. In rural areas, victims of firearm-related crime were more likely to be female (39% in both the rural South and the rural North) than in urban areas (31%).

There was little difference in the age distribution of female and male victims, with 36% of male victims and 34% of female victims under 25 years of age. However, male and female victims of firearm-related violent crime were more likely to be young adults aged 18 to 24 years (25% of male and 22% of female victims) compared to victims where no firearm was present (15% and 18%, respectively).

Most victims of firearm-related violent crime sustain no injuries

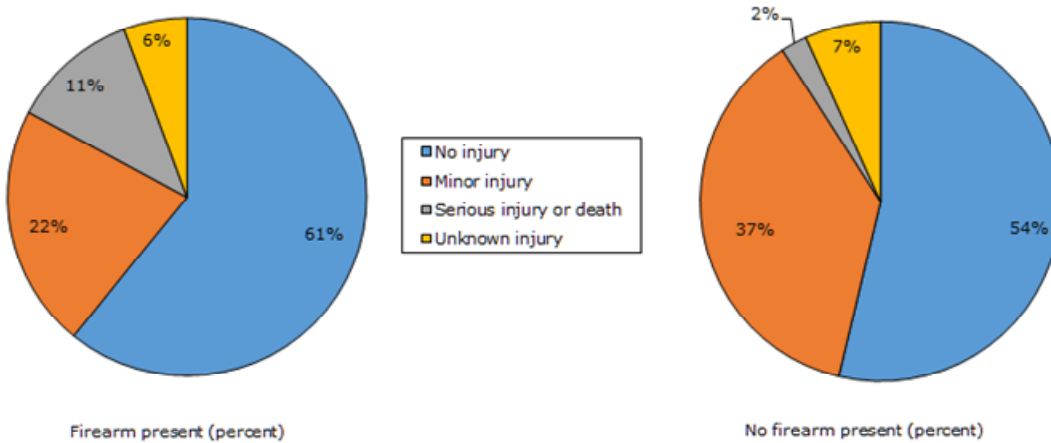
Overall, most victims of violent crime were not injured, and very few injuries resulting from violent crime were caused by firearms. In 2020, there were almost 122,000 victims of violent crime who sustained injuries as a result of their victimization;⁴³ of these, almost 2,000 (1.6%) had injuries caused by a firearm.

In 2020, over four in five (83%) victims of firearm-related violent crime (where a firearm was present) either had no injury (61%) or sustained a minor injury that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid (22%) (Table 12).⁴⁴ Among victims where no firearm was present, 54% had no injury and 37% sustained a minor injury. Although victims of firearm-related crime were less likely to be injured than victims where no firearm was present, they were more likely to sustain a serious injury or die (Chart 12).⁴⁵

Among victims of firearm-related violent crime who did sustain an injury or die, the majority (71%) of injuries were caused by a firearm.⁴⁶ For victims where no firearm was present, the most common cause of an injury or death was physical force (73% of injured victims). Even among victims of firearm-related crime who sustained a minor injury requiring no medical attention, the majority (61%) were caused by a firearm. For the 8% of victims who experienced a serious injury requiring medical treatment, 85% had injuries caused by a firearm. Almost all (99%) deaths in firearm-related violent crimes were caused by a firearm.

Overall, in 2020, among victims of firearm-related violent crime, 32% of male and 20% of female victims sustained an injury caused by a firearm. There was a small increase in the proportion of victims of firearm-related violent crime who were injured by a firearm, from 24% between 2009 and 2014 to 27% between 2015 and 2020.

Chart 12
Level of injury of victims in firearm and non-firearm-related violent crime, 2020



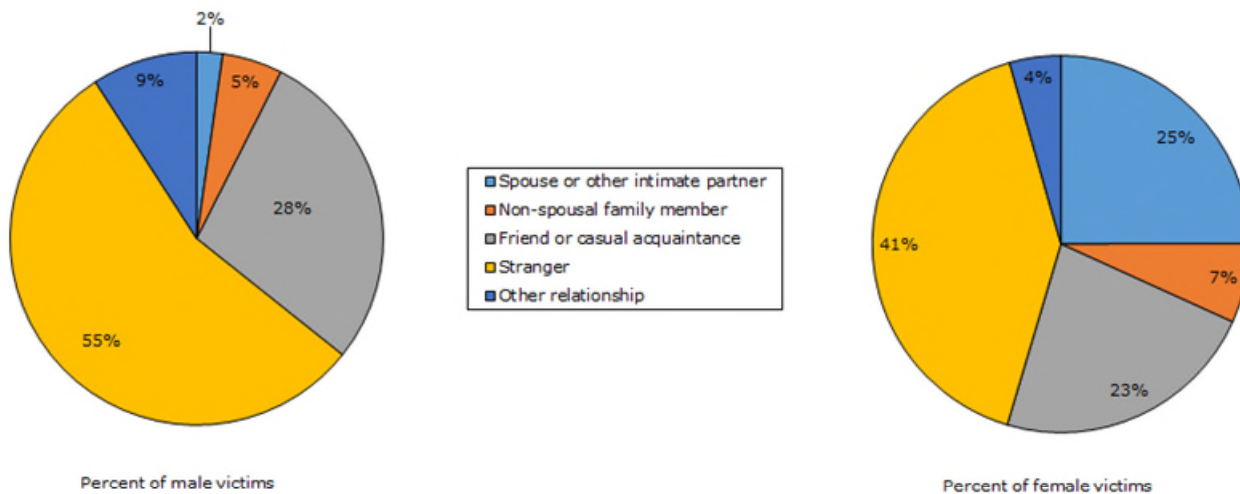
Note: Firearm-related crime is defined as victims of violent crime reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. A minor injury is defined as a physical injury that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid. No injury includes victims where no injury was reported whether or not a weapon or physical force was used. Injury is considered unknown when the extent of injuries to the victim could not be determined though weapons or physical force were used against the victim. Chart for no firearm present includes victims where presence of a firearm was unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Perpetrator in firearm-related violent crime most frequently a stranger in 2020

The perpetrator in firearm-related violent crimes was most frequently a stranger to the victim (for 55% of male victims and 41% of female victims) (Table 13; Chart 13).⁴⁷ This was driven, however, by the nature of firearm-related violent crime in urban areas. Instead, in the rural South, the perpetrator was a stranger to 31% of male victims and 22% of female victims; in the rural North, the perpetrator being a stranger was even less common (23% and 14%, respectively). This may be related to the fact that many communities in the rural North are relatively small and strangers are fewer.

Chart 13
Relationship of perpetrator to victim in firearm-related crime, 2020



Note: Firearm-related crime is defined as victims of violent crime reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Other relationship includes unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

In the rural North, the perpetrator was frequently a friend or acquaintance (for 44% of male victims and 28% of female victims in 2020). However, as with violent crime generally and compared with other regions, the perpetrator in the rural North was more often a family member other than a spouse: 13% of male victims of firearm-related violent crime and 15% of females were victimized by a non-spousal family member.

Perpetrators in firearm-related violent crimes were more likely to be a stranger compared to those in crimes where no firearm was present in the incident. Among victims of non-firearm-related crime, the perpetrator was identified as a stranger for 35% of male and 15% of female victims. Of these crimes, the perpetrator was much more likely to be a spouse or other intimate partner or a non-spousal family member for both male and female victims.

One in four female victims of firearm-related violent crime victimized by a current or former spouse or other intimate partner

Overall, 1% of violent crimes committed by a current or former spouse or other intimate partner in 2020 were firearm-related. Female victims in incidents where a firearm was present were more likely than males to be victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) in all regions, but most notably in rural areas.

One in four (25%) female victims of firearm-related violent crime were victimized by a current or former spouse or other intimate partner. In contrast, 2.2% of male victims of firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were similarly victims of intimate partner violence. In contrast, a higher proportion of victims of non-firearm-related violent crime were victimized by a spouse or other intimate partner (42% of female and 13% of male victims). This is partially attributable to the fact that comparatively fewer non-firearm-related violent crimes are committed by strangers.

It is worth noting that, for both male and female victims of firearm-related violent crime, the proportion involving IPV was higher in 2020 than in previous years. In particular, the proportional increase between 2019 and 2020 was the result of an increase in the number of victims of IPV combined with a drop in number of victims where the perpetrator was a stranger, possibly the result of pandemic restrictions. During the six-year period from 2009 to 2014, 18% of female and 1.6% of male victims of firearm-related violent crime were victims of IPV. On average, between 2015 and 2020, 22% of female and 1.7% of male victims of firearm-related violent crime were victims of IPV.

For women, firearm-related IPV was most frequent in rural areas. In 2020, there were 8.1 female victims of firearm-related IPV per 100,000 female population in the rural South, and 31 per 100,000 in the rural North (compared to 4.1 in urban areas). IPV accounted for nearly one-third (32%) of female victims of firearm-related crime in the rural South and 38% in the rural North. This was also the pattern in previous years. Although IPV for male victims was also higher in rural areas, rates were low compared to females (1.4 per 100,000 males in the rural South, 2.8 in the rural North and 0.9 in urban areas).⁴⁸

About half (48%) of firearm-related intimate partner violence in 2020 involved physical assault (34% major assaults levels 2 or 3), 17% were firearm-specific violent offences, and another 15% were uttering threats. In contrast, 47% of firearm-related violent crimes committed by a stranger were incidents of robbery.

Characteristics of individuals accused in violent incidents where a firearm was present

This section presents information on the clearance (or solve) rates for firearm-related violent crime. It then examines the characteristics of individuals accused in incidents where a firearm was present (regardless of whether information on a victim was provided), including the proportion of accused who were charged.

Clearance rates for firearm-related violent crime lower in urban than in rural areas

The majority (58%) of incidents involving a victim of firearm-related violent crime are solved (with at least one accused identified in the incident). However, this differs by region. In 2020, 83% of firearm-related violent crimes in the rural North and 72% in the rural South were solved or cleared. Clearance rates were notably lower in urban areas (54%), for all types of offences. Between the two time periods in this analysis, there was little change in the percentage of firearm-related violent crimes that were cleared by police. Only in the rural South was there a decline in the proportion of firearm-related crime cleared by police (from 83% between 2009 and 2014 to 79% between 2015 and 2020).

It should be noted that crimes are generally less likely to be solved in urban areas, not just when a firearm is present. These differences may be related to community size. Previous analysis has shown that clearance rates decrease as community size increases (Hotton Mahony and Turner 2012). In smaller, rural communities, for example, police officers may be more likely to know the individuals involved and can therefore clear or solve the case.

The fact that the accused in urban areas was more likely to be a stranger and that rates of family and IPV were higher in rural areas could also play a role. In this context, clearance rates for firearm-related violent crime were highest where the perpetrator was a family member (82% in 2020) and lowest where the perpetrator was a stranger (46%).

Individuals accused in firearm-related violent crime more often male

In 2020, 5,955 individuals were accused in police-reported violent incidents where a firearm was present.⁴⁹ Individuals accused in firearm-related violent crimes were predominantly male (87% in 2020), and this proportion differed little by region (Table 14). In comparison, 77% of individuals accused in non-firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were male.

As in other years, rates of firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were highest among young males aged 18 to 24 years (110 accused per 100,000 population) and male youth aged 12 to 17 (75 per 100,000) compared to older male adults (29 per 100,000 aged 25 and older). Rates among women followed the same pattern, but were notably lower across all age groups (Table 14). In all, there were 5 female accused per 100,000 females compared to 36 male accused per 100,000 males of all ages.

Although rates of males accused in non-firearm-related violent crime also followed a similar age pattern, they tended to be older: 44% of males accused in firearm-related violent crimes in 2020 were between 12 and 24 years of age compared to 24% in non-firearm-related violent crimes. This was also the case for females, where 42% of female accused in firearm-related violent crimes were under age 25 compared with 31% in non-firearm-related crime.

Overall, 38% of all individuals accused in firearm-related violent crimes in Canada in 2020 were young males 12 to 24 years of age. In contrast, among individuals accused in violent crimes where no firearm was present, 19% were males under age 25.

Between 2009 and 2014, half (50%) of individuals accused in firearm-related crimes in Canada were young males (12 to 24 years of age) compared to 43% over the period between 2015 and 2020. For non-firearm-related violent crime, young men accounted for 27% of accused between 2009 and 2014 and 22% in the later period. Over time, these proportions have been declining in part because of an overall decline in youth crime during this period.

In Canada, children under the age of 12 cannot be held criminally responsible for violations of the law. They can, however, be identified by police as accused. There were 23 children “accused” of firearm-related crimes in 2020, comprising less than 0.5% of individuals accused in firearm-related violent crime.⁵⁰

Most individuals accused in firearm-related violent crimes are charged

Most (87%) individuals who were accused in firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were charged. Male accused (88%) were more likely than females (82%) to be charged. Youth (aged 12 to 17 years) were less likely to be charged than young adults or older individuals (Table 15).⁵¹ Youth were least likely to be charged in firearm-related incidents of common assault or uttering threats.

For all age groups, males accused in firearm-related crime were less likely to be charged in rural areas, both North and South. Among female accused, charging rates did not differ notably by region.

Text box 6

Firearm-related violent crimes involving organized crime or street gangs

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey started collecting information from police on organized crime and street gang activity in 2016.⁵² While not all police services are yet able to provide this information, as of 2020, police services representing 93% of the Canadian population did so.

In 2020, where this information was reported, 6% of firearm-related violent crimes were identified by police as confirmed or suspected to be committed by, and for the benefit of, a criminal organization or street gang.⁵³ In these incidents, most (75%) of the victims involved were male.

Homicide, other violations causing death, and attempted murder (combined) accounted for over one quarter (27%) of firearm-related crimes that were identified as confirmed or suspected to have been committed for the benefit of organized crime or gang activity. Robbery (22%) and discharging a firearm with intent (21%) were the next most frequent offences.⁵⁴ For information specific to gang-related homicides, see “Firearm-related homicides”.

Less than half (47%) of these crimes were cleared by police, with an accused identified. Firearm-related organized or gang-related crimes were least likely to be solved for discharging a firearm with intent (43%), homicide, other violations causing death, or attempted murder (34% combined) and uttering threats (30%).

In 2020, 343 individuals, or 6% of those accused in firearm-related crimes, were accused in incidents that police confirmed or suspected to be committed by, and for the benefit of a criminal organization or street gang. As with firearm-related crime generally, most (85%) of these accused were male, 45% of which were aged 12 to 24. Most (92%) of these individuals were charged.

Summary

In 2020, 2.8% of victims of violent crime were victimized in a firearm-related incident, that is, an incident where a firearm was present and police deemed it was relevant to the crime. Though firearms are present in a minority of criminal incidents, the rate of firearm-related violent crime has been increasing in recent years.

Between 2009 and 2013 the rate of victims of firearm-related violent crime in Canada decreased, following a similar trend in violent crime overall. However, starting in 2014, rates of victims of firearm-related violent crime increased notably, with the largest increase between 2014 and 2015. This increase has been observed across most jurisdictions in Canada.

Much of the increase observed can be attributed to increases in certain types of crime, most notably, the *Criminal Code* offences of discharging a firearm with intent, pointing a firearm and use of a firearm in an indictable offence, which nearly doubled between the two-time periods examined in this study, 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020.

Many characteristics of firearm-related violent crime have remained consistent over the 12-year time frame examined in this study. For example, handguns continue to account for the majority of firearms present in firearm-related violent crime.

The nature of firearm-related violent crime is quite different between urban and rural areas in Canada. In urban areas, firearm-related violent crime most commonly involves handguns, while in rural areas, the firearm present is most commonly a rifle or shotgun.

Generally speaking, while the accused person is most often a stranger in incidents of firearm-related violent crime, this was less often the case in rural areas. Of note, one in four women who were victims of a firearm-related violent crime in 2020 were victimized by a current or former spouse or other intimate partner, compared with 2% of men.

Statistics Canada continues to work with police services across the country to improve data on firearm-related violent crime. One relevant improvement is the development of standard classification of data involving street crime and organized gang activity. In 2020, data from police services covering 93% of the population of Canada found that 6% of victims of firearm-related violent crime were involved in an incident linked to a criminal organization or street gang.

Data sources and concepts

Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was established in 1962 with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The survey is a compilation of police-reported crimes that have been reported to federal, provincial/territorial and municipal police services in Canada.

One incident can involve multiple offences. Counts of victims presented in this article are based upon the most serious violation against the victim. The most serious violation is determined by police according to standardized classification rules in the UCR which consider, for instance, whether or not the offence is violent as well as the maximum penalty imposed by the *Criminal Code*.

Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file

The Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey trend file is a microdata survey that captures detailed information on crimes reported to and substantiated by police, including the characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. Coverage from the UCR2 between 2009 and 2020 is estimated at 99% of the population of Canada and includes only those police services who have consistently responded to the survey in order to allow for comparisons over time.

Quebec is excluded from the analysis of Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data in this study due to data quality issues; specifically, there was a large proportion of incidents where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. As a result, the analysis of data from the UCR in this article represents 77.4% of the total Canadian population.

Excludes data for the Saint John Municipal Police Service (SJPS). Starting in 2016, the decision was taken by the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics in communication with the SJPS, to remove all microdata records submitted by SJPS (with the exception of their hate crime incidents) from analytical files for revised 2016 data onwards, as well as from the microdata trend file which begins in 2009, due to data quality concerns.

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects police-reported data on the characteristics of all homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada. The Homicide Survey began collecting information on all homicides in 1961.

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police service completes the survey questionnaires, which are then sent to Statistics Canada. There are cases where homicides become known to police months or years after they occurred. These incidents are counted in the year in which they become known to police. Information on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). Accused characteristics are updated as homicide cases are solved and new information is submitted to the Homicide Survey.

Information collected through the victim and incident questionnaires are also updated accordingly as a result of a case being solved.

The Homicide Survey recently underwent a redesign to improve data quality and enhance relevance. Changes were made to existing questions and additional questions have been added for the 2019 reporting period.

Urban and rural regions

Rural police services are those where the majority of the population served lives outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or CA. A CMA or a CA is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centered on a population centre (known as the core). A CMA requires 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. It should be noted that information was not available for all police services to determine whether they were rural or urban.

Rural North and rural South: Rural North includes all rural police services in the Territories or in the Provincial North. Provincial North encompasses the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia (North and South - Variant of SGC 2016). Rural South refers to rural police services in the southern regions of these provinces as well as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Types of firearm

For the purposes of the UCR and Homicide Surveys, a firearm is any barrelled weapon from which any shot, bullet, or other missile can be discharged and is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person. Different types of firearms are distinguished as such by the two surveys (presented in descending order of seriousness according to the hierarchy for determining most serious weapon):

Fully automatic firearm: Any firearm that allows continuous and rapid firing of bullets with one pull of the trigger.

Sawed-off rifle or shotgun: Any rifle or shotgun with a barrel length which has been altered to less than 457 millimetres, or with an overall weapon length of less than 660 millimetres.

Handgun: Any firearm designed to be held and fired by the action of one hand.

Rifle or shotgun: Any long-barrelled firearm with a barrel length greater than or equal to 457 millimetres, or with an overall length of 660 millimetres or more.

Firearm-like weapon: Any weapon capable of propelling any object through a barrel by means of gunpowder, compressed carbon dioxide, pumped air, or any other means. Includes, for example, flare guns or pellet guns. For UCR data, this category also includes all unknown types of firearms.

References

- Hotton Mahony, T. and J. Turner. 2012. "Police-reported clearance rates in Canada, 2010." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Moreau, G. 2021. "Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2020." *Juristat*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.
- Statistics Canada. 2020. Table 13-10-0156-01. Deaths, by cause: External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01 to Y89).

Notes

1. Quebec is excluded from the analysis of Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data in this study due to data quality issues; specifically, there was a large proportion of incidents where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. As a result, the analysis of data from the UCR in this article represents 77.4% of the total Canadian population.
2. This approach of pooling the data into two time periods takes into account the fact that small counts of victims of firearm-related violent crime in less populous jurisdictions can result in large variations from year to year. As such it allows for a standard indicator for comparing changes in firearm-related crime for a variety of geographic areas. This measure based on pooled data is also less susceptible to unusual results, particularly in smaller jurisdictions, that can occur when change is measured by comparing two specific years. For example, nationally, a measure of the percentage change between 2009 and 2020 would show no increase in firearm-related crime, while a comparison to the low point in 2013 would show a large increase, and not account for the previous decline. Using the percentage change between two six-year periods reflects the general change at the national level, and reduces the impact that can occur by choosing a specific year. Of note, the development of this method also looked at using 2014 as a cut off for defining the two periods. A comparison of the two pooling methods showed little difference in the findings in the report. As a result, 2015 was chosen as it marks a more notable change in both total crime and firearm-related crime in Canada in most jurisdictions.
3. In 2020, 39% of firearms used in the commission of a homicide were recovered. See Text box 4.
4. Percentages are calculated excluding victims where information on weapon present was unknown. Percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding. Including these unknowns in the calculation, firearm-related crime accounted for 2.7% of all victims of violent crime in 2020.
5. This includes all incidents where there was no weapon present, and includes incidents where physical force was used, or where there was a threat of violence.
6. Major assaults include aggravated assault (level 2) or assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 3).
7. This combined rate also includes other violations causing death such as criminal negligence causing death.
8. In addition, rates were lower in the rural South than in urban areas in Newfoundland and Labrador and in Manitoba. However, 2020 was not a typical year. Over the six-year period between 2015 and 2020, rates in the rural South were lower than in urban areas nationally, but again, this was not the case everywhere. The rural areas where rates were lower than in urban areas were rural Nova Scotia and Ontario, and the rural South regions of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.
9. The jurisdictions where a higher proportion of violent crime involved firearms in rural, compared to urban, areas in 2020 were in New Brunswick, Alberta (both rural North and South), the rural South of British Columbia and rural areas in Yukon and the Northwest Territories.
10. See the "Data sources and concepts" section for definitions of rural North and South.
11. It is worth noting that the only provinces and territories that had increase in overall violent crime between these two time periods were the Northwest Territories (+12%), Manitoba (+3%) and New Brunswick (+1%).
12. Major assaults include aggravated assault (level 2) or assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 3).
13. For example, mathematically speaking, an increase from one victim to two is larger than an increase of 25 victims to 30.
14. The Oshawa census metropolitan area (CMA) is excluded due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. The CMA of Saint John is excluded due to data quality concerns. Excludes CMAs in Quebec.
15. While most of the analysis is based on victim records provided by police, analysis of individuals accused of firearm-related crime is based on all incidents where a firearm was present, including those where no victim record was provided.
16. While this variable captures information on the weapon used against victims, it does not include information on weapons used if no injury was suffered (e.g., if a victim was threatened with a weapon but the use did not cause physical injury). If multiple weapons were used to inflict injury, the weapon that was used to cause the most serious physical injury is recorded. Weapon causing injury does not capture incidents where the firearm was used or fired but missed the victim.

17. Using this definition, for incidents with multiple victims, each victim is counted individual as a separate “firearm-related crime”.
18. Some violations in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, such as attempted murder, require that police provide information about the victim. In the case of firearm-specific violent offences a victim record can be provided, but is not required as some incidents (e.g., shootings) may not have a victim.
19. In this article, the primary measure is the count of victims of firearm-related crime. Therefore, analysis of offences is mainly based on the most serious violation against the victim unless otherwise stated.
20. In the chart, measures related to weapon causing injury and firearm-specific violent offences include a small number of victims where police did not report that a firearm was present in the incident.
21. The *Criminal Code* defines discharging a firearm with intent as follows: “Every person commits an offence who discharges a firearm at a person with intent to wound, maim or disfigure, to endanger the life of or to prevent the arrest or detention of any person—whether or not that person is the one at whom the firearm is discharged” (*Criminal Code* s. 244 (1)).
22. These violations account for 54% of the difference in the change in rates and 43% of the increase in the number of crimes.
23. Rates also increased in urban Prince Edward Island, with 4 victims of these offences reported from 2009 to 2014 and 16 reported between 2015 and 2020.
24. In urban Newfoundland and Labrador, the number of firearm-specific violent offences increased between the two periods, but rates fell as result of increased populations.
25. This count is specific to victims in incidents where police reported that a firearm was present. For 249 victims where any violation in the incident was a firearm-specific violent offence, police did not report the presence of a firearm.
26. The count of victims where any violation in the incident was a firearm-specific violent offence excludes homicides for which secondary violations are not available in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.
27. Among the three firearm-specific violent offences, discharging a firearm with intent and use of a firearm in the commission of an indictable offence both have a maximum penalty of 14 years. As a result, they are considered more serious than pointing a firearm (maximum penalty five years).
28. For another 6% of victims, the extent of their injuries could not be determined though weapons or physical force were used. It should be noted that no deaths were identified as these calculations exclude homicides for which information on secondary violations is not available.
29. For 8% of these victims, injury was unknown.
30. Major assaults include aggravated assault (level 2) or assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 3).
31. Where the offence was identified as the most serious violation against the victim. As a proportion of all violent crime, robbery and major assaults account for 4% and 18% of victims respectively. Firearm-specific violent offences account for less than 1% of all victims of violent crime.
32. With 1 homicide, the rate of homicides in Nunavut was 2.54 per 100,000 population.
33. Excludes data for the Saint John Municipal Police Service (SJPS) due to data quality concerns.
34. In Yukon, the rate of firearm-related homicides increased 256% between the two time periods from 1 to 4 homicides.
35. With small numbers, the rates of firearm-related homicides also declined between the two six-year periods in Nunavut (-73% from 10 to 3 homicides) and the Northwest Territories (-51% from 2 to 1 homicide).
36. Information on relationships is presented for the six-year periods because low counts result in high variations from year to year. Percentage is calculated excluding unknown relationships.
37. Before 2019, settling of accounts included drug or gang-related disputes. With the redesign of the Homicide Survey in 2019, the categories related to motive changed. This category was changed to include “drug or gang-related debts” and a new motive was added related to illegal drug trade activities.
38. A homicide is classified as gang-related when police confirm or suspect that the accused person and/or victim involved in the homicide was either a member, or a prospective member, of an organized crime group or street gang or was somehow associated with an organized crime group or street gang, and the homicide was carried out as a result of this association. Prior to 2005, police were asked if the homicide was “gang-related.” In 2005, the question was amended to give police the option of specifying whether the homicide was: (a) confirmed as gang-related or (b) suspected as being gang-related.
39. The unknown firearm category includes fully automatic firearms.
40. The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey uses four categories to collect information on the most serious weapon present during the commission of a crime, regardless of whether or not it was used. Handguns consist of any firearm that is designed to be held and fired with one hand, including semi-automatic pistols. Rifles and shotguns include most long-barrelled

firearms. Sawed-off rifles or shotguns and all fully automatic firearms are collected separately and identified as “other firearms” in this article. In addition, information is also collected on firearm-like weapons such as a pellet gun or a flare gun and firearms where the type is unknown.

41. Based on incidents where the most serious violation in the incident was a non-violent weapons offence. This may include weapons other than a firearm.

42. The option for police to code victims as gender diverse in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was implemented in 2018. Given that small counts of victims identified as “gender diverse” may exist, the UCR aggregate data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either “male” or “female,” in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Victims identified as gender diverse have been assigned to either male or female based on the regional distribution of victims’ gender.

43. This represents 39% of all victims of violent crime. In addition, just over 21,000 or 6.8% of victims had unknown injuries, where the extent of injuries could not be determined though weapons or physical force were used against the victim.

44. No injury includes victims who sustained no injury although a weapon or physical force was used as well as victims where there was no weapon or use of force.

45. For 6% of firearm-related victims and 7% of non-firearm-related victims, police reported an “unknown injury”. An injury is considered unknown when the extent of injuries could not be determined though weapons or physical force were used against the victim. For 83% of these victims with unknown injury, police identified a firearm as the most serious weapon causing injury.

46. Excludes victims where the extent of the injury was reported as unknown.

47. Where no information on the relationship of the accused to the victim is provided by police (relationship is unknown), this information is imputed and the term perpetrator is used. Among victims of firearm-related violent crime, 18% of relationships were imputed in 2020. Among victims of non-firearm-related violent crime, the imputation rate was lower (10%). This has a small impact on the resulting information on relationships for firearm-related crime. Of note, imputation is more frequent for non-family relationships. It should be noted that there is no impact on the estimate of firearm-related family violence.

48. Rates for all intimate partner violence are per 100,000 population aged 12 years and older.

49. In 18% of these incidents, no victim information was provided by police. As a result, this section may not be representative of the individuals accused of the firearm-related crimes presented earlier in this report that are based on victim records. Moreover, the information in this section is based on the most serious violation reported in the incident which may or may not be the violation against particular victims in that incident.

50. The number of children reported by police as accused in firearm-related crimes has gradually fallen over the period examined in the study from 68 in 2009 and 101 in 2010 to 23 in 2020.

51. In Canada, children under the age of 12 cannot be held criminally responsible for violations of the law.

52. In the UCR, a criminal organization is defined as a static or fluid group of 3 or more individuals who communicate, cooperate, and conspire within an ongoing collective or network, and has as one of its main purposes or activities the facilitation or commission of offences undertaken or planned to generate material benefits or financial gain. A street gang is defined as a more or less structured group of adolescents, young adults, and/or adults who use intimidation and violence to commit criminal acts on a regular basis, in order to obtain power and recognition and/or control specific areas of criminal activities. Due to the complexity of these incidents, the data likely reflect the number of active or closed investigations for the year rather than the total number of incidents reported to police.

53. Based on information provided by those police services included in the UCR trend file that reported information on organized crime and street gang activity.

54. These figures are based on the most serious violation against the victim. Looking only at victims where any violation in the incident involved discharging a firearm, 11% of the incidents were reported as confirmed or suspected organized crime or street gang activity.

Detailed data tables

Table 1

Victims of police-reported violent firearm-related crime, provinces and territories, rural and urban regions, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Geography	2009 to 2014	2015 to 2020	2019		2020		Change in rate between 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020	Change in rate 2019 to 2020
	average rate ¹	average rate ¹	number	rate ²	number	rate ²	percent	
Canada	23	27	8,256	29	8,344	29	20	0
Urban	22	26	6,699	27	6,617	27	17	-2
Rural South	17	23	875	25	1,001	28	32	14
Rural North	53	76	682	81	726	86	42	6
Newfoundland and Labrador	12	13	71	14	57	11	11	-20
Urban	9	9	28	10	31	11	2	11
Rural South	12	16	29	14	20	10	27	-31
Rural North	36	41	14	50	6	22	16	-57
Prince Edward Island	10	12	14	9	18	11	20	27
Urban	10	11	3	3	12	12	8	294
Rural South	11	15	11	20	6	11	39	-46
Nova Scotia	25	18	171	18	210	22	-27	22
Urban	28	19	112	18	161	25	-30	42
Rural South	19	15	59	18	49	15	-20	-17
New Brunswick ³	17	23	185	26	199	28	36	7
Urban	15	21	106	25	104	24	44	-3
Rural South	20	26	79	29	95	34	26	20
Ontario	19	23	3,435	24	3,547	24	22	2
Urban	20	24	3,280	25	3,360	25	22	1
Rural South	9	10	114	11	133	12	8	16
Rural North	17	17	41	16	54	21	0	32
Manitoba	35	50	802	60	676	51	44	-16
Urban	33	51	586	62	478	50	58	-19
Rural South	19	24	91	31	89	30	25	-3
Rural North	101	123	125	142	109	123	22	-13
Saskatchewan	35	67	920	80	858	74	93	-7
Urban	29	57	531	71	436	58	99	-19
Rural South	33	54	214	59	236	65	67	11
Rural North	166	383	175	444	186	471	131	6
Alberta	28	36	1,572	36	1,709	39	28	7
Urban	27	33	1,197	33	1,210	33	22	0
Rural South	24	40	197	41	264	54	66	31
Rural North	56	80	178	71	235	94	44	32
British Columbia	23	19	947	19	947	18	-19	-1
Urban	23	19	835	18	802	17	-20	-5
Rural South	16	16	81	19	109	25	-4	34
Rural North	32	31	31	27	36	31	-3	16

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 1
Victims of police-reported violent firearm-related crime, provinces and territories, rural and urban regions, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Geography	2009 to 2014	2015 to 2020	2019		2020		Change in rate between 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020	Change in rate 2019 to 2020
	average rate ¹	average rate ¹	number	rate ²	number	rate ²	percent	
Yukon	36	47	24	58	26	62	29	7
Urban	24	28	11	32	13	37	19	16
Rural North	92	138	13	185	13	186	50	1
Northwest Territories	45	84	52	115	64	142	87	23
Urban	12	25	10	45	10	44	113	-1
Rural North	74	139	42	184	54	239	89	29
Nunavut	127	129	63	163	33	84	2	-49

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Average rates are calculated per 100,000 population and are based on the total count of victims over the time period divided by the sum of the populations for each year in the six-year time period.

2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

3. Excludes data for the Saint John Municipal Police Service (SJPS) due to data quality concerns.

Note: Firearm-related crime is defined as victims of violent crime reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Excludes data for the Saint John Municipal Police Service (SJPS) due to data quality concerns. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or CA. See "Data sources and concepts" for further information. Rural North includes all rural police services in the Territories or in the Provincial North. Provincial North encompasses the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Rural South refers to rural police services in the southern regions of these provinces as well as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Table 2
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by type of weapon, provinces and territories, rural and urban regions, 2020

Geography	Firearm			Other weapon ¹		No weapon ²		Unknown		Total	
	#	%	rate ³	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canada	8,344	2.8	29	61,497	20.6	229,326	76.7	10,965	...	310,132	100.0
Urban	6,617	2.9	27	48,164	21.4	170,530	75.7	6,049	...	231,360	100.0
Rural South	1,001	2.6	28	6,607	16.9	31,539	80.6	2,287	...	41,434	100.0
Rural North	726	2.1	86	6,726	19.4	27,257	78.5	2,629	...	37,338	100.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	57	0.8	11	1,033	15.3	5,650	83.8	392	...	7,132	100.0
Urban	31	1.0	11	514	17.1	2,453	81.8	148	...	3,146	100.0
Rural South	20	0.9	10	277	12.0	2,002	87.1	98	...	2,397	100.0
Rural North	6	0.4	22	242	16.8	1,195	82.8	146	...	1,589	100.0
Prince Edward Island	18	1.4	11	133	10.0	1,182	88.7	52	...	1,385	100.0
Urban	12	1.4	12	76	9.0	760	89.6	35	...	883	100.0
Rural South	6	1.2	11	57	11.8	422	87.0	17	...	502	100.0
Nova Scotia	210	2.0	22	1,531	14.7	8,655	83.3	522	...	10,918	100.0
Urban	161	2.6	25	974	15.5	5,146	81.9	267	...	6,548	100.0
Rural South	49	1.2	15	557	13.5	3,509	85.3	255	...	4,370	100.0
New Brunswick ⁴	199	2.0	28	1,303	13.0	8,487	85.0	486	...	10,475	100.0
Urban	104	1.8	24	716	12.6	4,860	85.6	241	...	5,921	100.0
Rural South	95	2.2	34	587	13.6	3,627	84.2	245	...	4,554	100.0
Ontario	3,547	3.2	24	20,867	18.9	85,738	77.8	2,131	...	112,283	100.0
Urban	3,360	3.4	25	19,123	19.4	76,218	77.2	1,815	...	100,516	100.0
Rural South	133	1.9	12	1,036	14.8	5,848	83.3	175	...	7,192	100.0
Rural North	54	1.2	21	708	16.0	3,672	82.8	141	...	4,575	100.0
Manitoba	676	2.8	51	6,521	27.0	16,948	70.2	1,304	...	25,449	100.0
Urban	478	3.5	50	4,036	30.0	8,951	66.5	423	...	13,888	100.0
Rural South	89	2.4	30	808	21.7	2,832	75.9	259	...	3,988	100.0
Rural North	109	1.6	123	1,677	24.1	5,165	74.3	622	...	7,573	100.0
Saskatchewan	858	3.9	74	5,532	25.4	15,397	70.7	1,351	...	23,138	100.0
Urban	436	4.6	58	2,719	28.6	6,367	66.9	349	...	9,871	100.0
Rural South	236	3.5	65	1,356	20.2	5,135	76.3	623	...	7,350	100.0
Rural North	186	3.4	471	1,457	26.3	3,895	70.3	379	...	5,917	100.0
Alberta	1,709	3.4	39	11,302	22.8	36,636	73.8	2,357	...	52,004	100.0
Urban	1,210	3.2	33	8,915	23.8	27,352	73.0	1,404	...	38,881	100.0
Rural South	264	4.4	54	1,179	19.8	4,514	75.8	441	...	6,398	100.0
Rural North	235	3.8	94	1,208	19.4	4,770	76.8	512	...	6,725	100.0
British Columbia	947	1.7	18	11,948	21.5	42,606	76.8	1,479	...	56,980	100.0
Urban	802	1.7	17	10,816	22.4	36,671	75.9	1,172	...	49,461	100.0
Rural South	109	2.4	25	750	16.6	3,650	80.9	174	...	4,683	100.0
Rural North	36	1.3	31	382	14.1	2,285	84.5	133	...	2,836	100.0

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 2
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by type of weapon, provinces and territories, rural and urban regions, 2020

Geography	Firearm			Other weapon ¹		No weapon ²		Unknown		Total	
	#	%	rate ³	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yukon	26	1.7	62	208	13.8	1,276	84.5	172	...	1,682	100.0
Urban	13	1.3	37	144	15.0	806	83.7	88	...	1,051	100.0
Rural North	13	2.4	186	64	11.7	470	85.9	84	...	631	100.0
Northwest Territories	64	1.5	142	634	15.2	3,474	83.3	378	...	4,550	100.0
Urban	10	0.9	44	131	12.1	946	87.0	107	...	1,194	100.0
Rural North	54	1.8	239	503	16.3	2,528	81.9	271	...	3,356	100.0
Nunavut	33	0.9	84	485	12.8	3,277	86.4	341	...	4,136	100.0

... 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 per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

4. Excludes data for the Saint John Municipal Police Service (SJPS) due to data quality concerns.

Note: Weapon is based on the most serious weapon present in the incident. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Excludes data for the Saint John Municipal Police Service (SJPS) due to data quality concerns. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or CA. See "Data sources and concepts" for further information. Rural North includes all rural police services in the Territories or in the Provincial North. Provincial North encompasses the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Rural South refers to rural police services in the southern regions of these provinces as well as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Percentage calculations exclude cases where the weapon is unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Table 3
Victims of police-reported violent firearm-related crime, census metropolitan areas, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Geography	2009 to 2014	2015 to 2020	2019		2020		Change in rate between 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020	Change in rate 2019 to 2020
	average rate ¹	average rate ¹	number	rate ²	number	rate ²	percent	
Canada	23	27	8,256	29	8,344	29	20	0
Urban	22	26	6,699	27	6,617	27	17	-2
Total census metropolitan areas³	23	27	5,742	28	5,591	27	14	-4
St. John's	9	10	15	7	26	12	11	73
Halifax	34	20	67	15	89	20	-41	30
Moncton	22	30	59	36	55	33	32	-8
Ottawa ⁴	20	19	172	16	185	17	-7	6
Kingston	8	13	38	22	27	16	59	-29
Belleville ⁵	...	15	23	20	13	11	...	-44
Peterborough	12	12	9	7	26	20	-2	187
Toronto ⁶	25	33	1,971	34	1,838	31	35	-8
Hamilton ⁷	31	34	184	32	224	39	9	20
St. Catharines–Niagara	17	17	93	19	130	27	5	39
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	17	21	169	28	134	22	23	-22
Brantford	18	31	73	51	82	56	74	11
Guelph	7	9	11	8	18	12	28	61
London	18	15	104	19	84	15	-17	-21
Windsor	19	27	85	27	129	40	38	50
Barrie	12	16	23	13	18	10	37	-24
Greater Sudbury	12	12	12	7	41	24	0	241
Thunder Bay	13	15	15	12	13	10	17	-13
Winnipeg	35	54	530	64	441	53	55	-17
Regina	25	59	206	79	161	61	136	-23
Saskatoon	32	42	160	48	147	43	31	-10
Lethbridge ⁵	...	24	28	23	29	23	...	2
Calgary	27	32	586	38	517	33	21	-13
Edmonton	27	32	375	26	427	29	19	12

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 3
Victims of police-reported violent firearm-related crime, census metropolitan areas, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Geography	2009 to 2014	2015 to 2020	2019		2020		Change in rate between 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020	Change in rate 2019 to 2020
	average rate ¹	average rate ¹	number	rate ²	number	rate ²	percent	
Kelowna	20	15	29	13	34	15	-25	15
Abbotsford–Mission	25	19	26	13	36	18	-24	37
Vancouver	27	19	515	19	446	16	-30	-14
Victoria	9	8	30	7	46	11	-19	51

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

... not applicable

1. Average rates are calculated per 100,000 population and are based on the total count of victims over the time period divided by the sum of the populations for each year in the six-year time period.

2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

3. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one census metropolitan area (CMA). This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. This also includes the CMA of Saint John, excluding the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

4. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

5. As of the 2016 Census, Belleville and Lethbridge became new CMAs.

6. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto (CMA). As a result, counts and rates may differ from information from other sources.

7. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton CMA. As a result, counts and rates may differ from information from other sources.

Note: Firearm-related crime is the number of victims reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. 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, 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. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. The CMA of Saint John is excluded from this table due to data quality concerns, but is included in Total CMA. Excludes Quebec due to the large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Urban refers to police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or census agglomeration.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Table 4
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by type of weapon, census metropolitan areas, 2020

Geography	Firearm			Other weapon ¹		No weapon ²		Unknown		Total	
	#	%	rate ³	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canada	8,344	2.8	29	61,497	20.6	229,326	76.7	10,965	...	310,132	100.0
Urban	6,617	2.9	27	48,164	21.4	170,530	75.7	6,049	...	231,360	100.0
Total census metropolitan areas⁴	5,591	3.2	27	39,061	22.3	130,899	74.6	3,899	...	179,450	100.0
St. John's	26	1.3	12	379	19.1	1,579	79.6	101	...	2,085	100.0
Halifax	89	2.2	20	658	16.5	3,251	81.3	150	...	4,148	100.0
Moncton	55	2.1	33	363	14.0	2,184	83.9	131	...	2,733	100.0
Ottawa ⁵	185	2.7	17	1,231	18.0	5,414	79.3	124	...	6,954	100.0
Kingston	27	2.1	16	253	19.4	1,022	78.5	45	...	1,347	100.0
Belleville ⁶	13	1.1	11	164	13.4	1,046	85.5	28	...	1,251	100.0
Peterborough	26	2.3	20	199	18.0	883	79.7	9	...	1,117	100.0
Toronto ⁷	1,838	4.6	31	8,134	20.5	29,671	74.8	792	...	40,435	100.0
Hamilton ⁸	224	3.9	39	998	17.5	4,495	78.6	31	...	5,748	100.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	130	4.1	27	576	18.3	2,438	77.5	38	...	3,182	100.0
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	134	1.7	22	1,361	17.6	6,233	80.7	131	...	7,859	100.0
Brantford	82	4.8	56	281	16.3	1,358	78.9	7	...	1,728	100.0
Guelph	18	2.1	12	175	20.4	666	77.5	21	...	880	100.0
London	84	2.0	15	1,019	24.0	3,151	74.1	242	...	4,496	100.0
Windsor	129	4.2	40	695	22.6	2,247	73.2	12	...	3,083	100.0
Barrie	18	1.5	10	218	18.0	976	80.5	35	...	1,247	100.0
Greater Sudbury	41	2.4	24	425	24.5	1,267	73.1	4	...	1,737	100.0
Thunder Bay	13	0.8	10	346	20.1	1,365	79.2	11	...	1,735	100.0
Winnipeg	441	4.2	53	3,397	32.5	6,629	63.3	237	...	10,704	100.0
Regina	161	5.5	61	796	27.0	1,993	67.6	54	...	3,004	100.0
Saskatoon	147	4.3	43	1,094	32.2	2,158	63.5	36	...	3,435	100.0
Lethbridge ⁶	29	1.4	23	385	18.1	1,717	80.6	25	...	2,156	100.0
Calgary	517	3.9	33	3,261	24.8	9,345	71.2	282	...	13,405	100.0
Edmonton	427	2.9	29	3,867	26.7	10,210	70.4	574	...	15,078	100.0
Kelowna	34	1.3	15	540	20.7	2,029	77.9	70	...	2,673	100.0
Abbotsford–Mission	36	1.9	18	433	23.2	1,394	74.8	29	...	1,892	100.0
Vancouver	446	1.7	16	6,240	24.4	18,852	73.8	502	...	26,040	100.0
Victoria	46	1.2	11	673	17.4	3,142	81.4	91	...	3,952	100.0

... not applicable

1. Includes all 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 per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

4. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one census metropolitan area (CMA). This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. This also includes the CMA of Saint John, excluding the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

5. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

6. As of the 2016 Census, Belleville and Lethbridge became new CMAs.

7. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto CMA. As a result, counts and rates may differ from information from other sources.

8. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton CMA. As a result, counts and rates may differ from information from other sources.

Note: Weapon is based on the most serious weapon present in the incident. 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. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. The CMA of Saint John is excluded from this table due to data quality concerns, but is included in Total CMA. Excludes Quebec due to the large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Urban refers to police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or census agglomeration. Percentage calculations exclude cases where the weapon is unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Table 5
Firearm-related crime as proportion of victims of police-reported violent crime, by violation against the victim, Canada, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Violation	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019		2020		% of violent crime ²	% of violent crime ²
	average rate ¹	% of violent crime ²	average rate ¹	% of violent crime ²	number	rate ³	number	rate ³		
Homicide and other violations causing death and attempted murder	1.3	36.0	1.8	43.1	574	2.0	44.8	565	1.9	44.5
Sexual assaults and sexual violations against children ⁴	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	83	0.3	0.3	78	0.3	0.3
Physical assaults	5.9	0.9	6.7	1.0	1,982	6.9	1.0	2,345	8.1	1.2
Major assaults (assault levels 2 and 3)	4.9	3.2	5.3	3.3	1,548	5.4	3.1	1,897	6.5	3.5
Common assault (level 1) and other assaults	1.0	0.2	1.4	0.3	434	1.5	0.3	448	1.5	0.3
Robbery	9.9	13.8	10.4	18.8	3,004	10.4	18.3	2,459	8.4	18.4
Uttering threats	2.0	1.4	2.3	2.0	700	2.4	2.1	775	2.7	2.2
Firearm-specific violent offences	2.6	98.4	5.0	99.3	1,719	6.0	99.2	1,858	6.4	99.3
Pointing a firearm	1.5	97.3	2.4	98.6	792	2.8	98.3	896	3.1	98.7
Discharging a firearm with intent	0.6	100.0	2.1	99.9	746	2.6	100.0	779	2.7	99.9
Use of a firearm in the commission of an offence	0.4	99.7	0.6	100.0	181	0.6	100.0	183	0.6	100.0
Other violent crime	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	194	0.7	0.9	264	0.9	1.1
Total all violent offences	22.6	2.1	27.2	2.8	8,256	28.7	2.7	8,344	28.7	2.8

1. Average rates are calculated per 100,000 population and are based on the total count of victims over the time period divided by the sum of the populations for each year in the six-year time period.

2. These percentages represent firearm-related crimes as a proportion of all victims of each offence.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

4. Sexual violations against children include sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, luring a child via telecommunications/agreement or arrangement, making sexually explicit material available to a child for the purpose of facilitating sexual offences against children/youth, and the offences of parent or guardian procuring sexual activity, householder permitting prohibited sexual activity, agreement or arrangement of a sexual offence against a child, and bestiality in the presence of or inciting a child (s. 160(3)). Incidents of child pornography are not included in the category of sexual violations against children.

Note: Firearm-related crime is the number of victims reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Violation represents the most serious violation against the victim. 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 and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Table 6
Victims of violent firearm-related homicides, provinces and territories, rural and urban regions, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Geography	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019		2020		Change in rate between 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020	Change in rate 2019 to 2020		
	average rate ¹	% of all homicides ²	average rate ¹	% of all homicides ²	number	rate ³	% of all homicides ²	number	rate ³	% of all homicides ²	percent	
Canada	0.47	30	0.66	39	262	0.70	41	277	0.73	40	40	5
Urban	0.45	31	0.65	41	214	0.67	43	222	0.69	40	43	3
Rural South	0.46	32	0.53	37	26	0.54	35	36	0.74	44	16	37
Rural North	1.03	19	1.59	25	22	2.23	31	19	1.93	28	54	-14
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.32	53	0.10	13	0	0.00	0	1	0.19	25	-70	...
Prince Edward Island	0.23	40	0.11	25	1	0.64	50	0	0.00	0	-53	-100
Nova Scotia	0.60	36	0.87	54	2	0.21	40	24	2.45	71	45	1,088
New Brunswick	0.31	27	0.74	47	11	1.42	69	7	0.90	50	138	-37
Quebec	0.36	33	0.34	36	27	0.32	36	23	0.27	27	-5	-16
Ontario	0.39	32	0.62	41	100	0.69	41	94	0.64	41	59	-7
Manitoba	0.59	15	0.80	20	20	1.46	29	13	0.94	22	35	-35
Saskatchewan	0.48	17	1.27	32	19	1.62	37	18	1.53	35	165	-6
Alberta	0.70	30	1.05	41	37	0.85	42	58	1.31	44	51	55
British Columbia	0.67	37	0.81	46	44	0.86	53	38	0.74	46	21	-15
Yukon	0.47	17	1.67	27	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	...	256	...
Northwest Territories	0.77	13	0.37	4	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	-51	...
Nunavut	4.85	31	1.32	12	1	2.59	17	1	2.54	33	-73	-2

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

... not applicable

1. Average rates are calculated per 100,000 population and are based on the total count of homicides over the time period divided by the sum of the populations for each year in the six-year time period.

2. Excludes homicides where the weapon used to kill the victim was reported as unknown.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

Note: The number for homicides in this table will not match numbers published in other *Juristats* and is not consistent with the information on victims of firearm-related "homicide and other violations causing death and attempted murder" based on the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey data published in this report, as data from Quebec is excluded. Specific analysis of homicide is based on data from the Homicide Survey, which represents 100% of the population of Canada. There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they become known to police and reported to Statistics Canada. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or CA. See "Data sources and concepts" for further information. Rural North includes all rural police services in the Territories or in the Provincial North. Provincial North encompasses the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Rural South refers to rural police services in the southern regions of these provinces as well as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Nova Scotia attacks in April 2020 had a significant impact on the number of homicides in the province, accounting for 22 homicide victims.

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

Table 7
Victims of violent firearm-related homicides, provinces and territories, selected census metropolitan areas, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Geography	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019			2020			Change in rate between 2009 to 2014 and 2015 to 2020	Change in rate 2019 to 2020
	average rate ¹	% of all homicides ²	average rate ¹	% of all homicides ²	number	rate ³	% of all homicides ²	number	rate ³	% of all homicides ²	percent	
Canada	0.47	30	0.66	39	262	0.70	41	277	0.73	40	40	5
Urban	0.45	31	0.65	41	214	0.67	43	222	0.69	40	43	3
Total census metropolitan areas	0.49	33	0.67	42	187	0.69	44	183	0.67	40	36	-3
Halifax	1.16	44	0.74	44	2	0.46	67	1	0.22	14	-36	-51
Québec	0.06	12	0.12	22	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	91	...
Montréal	0.45	40	0.44	42	21	0.49	48	10	0.23	24	-3	-53
Gatineau ⁴	0.42	33	0.25	28	1	0.29	33	3	0.88	43	-41	197
Ottawa ⁵	0.21	23	0.62	46	5	0.46	38	3	0.27	30	195	-41
Toronto	0.66	47	0.88	52	66	1.03	53	52	0.80	51	33	-22
Hamilton	0.23	19	0.77	50	9	1.18	64	8	1.03	50	233	-12
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	0.16	17	0.35	35	5	0.84	100	1	0.17	13	120	-80
Winnipeg	0.68	18	0.94	27	15	1.81	37	11	1.32	28	38	-27
Regina	0.30	11	1.38	38	6	2.29	75	5	1.89	42	364	-17
Saskatoon	0.35	15	1.08	34	6	1.79	43	6	1.76	43	205	-2
Calgary	0.29	19	0.93	47	12	0.79	55	18	1.17	49	215	48
Edmonton	0.90	33	1.18	42	8	0.55	27	16	1.09	38	31	97
Vancouver	0.80	47	0.74	47	19	0.70	51	19	0.69	49	-8	-1

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

... not applicable

1. Average rates are calculated per 100,000 population and are based on the total count of homicides over the time period divided by the sum of the populations for each year in the six-year time period.

2. Excludes homicides where the weapon used to kill the victim was reported as unknown.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

5. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Note: The number for homicides in this table will not match numbers published in other *Juristats* and is not consistent with the information on victims of firearm-related "homicide and other violations causing death and attempted murder" based on the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey data published in this report, as data from Quebec is excluded. Specific analysis of homicide is based on data from the Homicide Survey, which represents 100% of the population of Canada. There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they become known to police and reported to Statistics Canada. 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. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. Total CMA in this table includes all CMAs, including Oshawa which is excluded from the tables based on data from the UCR. Urban refers to police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or census agglomeration.

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

Table 8
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by type of firearm, provinces and territories, rural and urban regions, 2020

Geography	Handgun			Rifle/shotgun			Other firearm ¹		Firearm-like weapon or unknown weapon ²		Total	
	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canada	4,542	54	16	1,506	18	5	416	5	1,880	23	8,344	100
Urban	4,200	63	17	763	12	3	298	5	1,356	20	6,617	100
Rural South	173	17	5	457	46	13	82	8	289	29	1,001	100
Rural North	169	23	20	286	39	34	36	5	235	32	726	100
Newfoundland and Labrador	16	28	3	19	33	4	4	7	18	32	57	100
Urban	14	45	5	5	16	2	1	3	11	35	31	100
Rural South	2	10	1	10	50	5	3	15	5	25	20	100
Rural North	0	0	0	4	67	14	0	0	2	33	6	100
Prince Edward Island	9	50	6	1	6	1	0	0	8	44	18	100
Urban	9	75	9	0	0	0	0	0	3	25	12	100
Rural South	0	0	0	1	17	2	0	0	5	83	6	100
Nova Scotia	87	41	9	57	27	6	2	1	64	30	210	100
Urban	78	48	12	33	20	5	2	1	48	30	161	100
Rural South	9	18	3	24	49	7	0	0	16	33	49	100
New Brunswick ⁴	56	28	8	81	41	11	9	5	53	27	199	100
Urban	41	39	9	28	27	6	4	4	31	30	104	100
Rural South	15	16	5	53	56	19	5	5	22	23	95	100
Ontario	2,623	74	18	228	6	2	88	2	608	17	3,547	100
Urban	2,568	76	19	165	5	1	77	2	550	16	3,360	100
Rural South	39	29	4	43	32	4	10	8	41	31	133	100
Rural North	16	30	6	20	37	8	1	2	17	31	54	100
Manitoba	255	38	19	162	24	12	49	7	210	31	676	100
Urban	229	48	24	86	18	9	36	8	127	27	478	100
Rural South	10	11	3	39	44	13	7	8	33	37	89	100
Rural North	16	15	18	37	34	42	6	6	50	46	109	100
Saskatchewan	215	25	19	298	35	26	104	12	241	28	858	100
Urban	117	27	16	123	28	16	76	17	120	28	436	100
Rural South	34	14	9	126	53	35	20	8	56	24	236	100
Rural North	64	34	162	49	26	124	8	4	65	35	186	100
Alberta	786	46	18	394	23	9	106	6	423	25	1,709	100
Urban	702	58	19	177	15	5	62	5	269	22	1,210	100
Rural South	42	16	9	109	41	22	25	9	88	33	264	100
Rural North	42	18	17	108	46	43	19	8	66	28	235	100
British Columbia	454	48	9	214	23	4	52	5	227	24	947	100
Urban	429	53	9	141	18	3	39	5	193	24	802	100
Rural South	22	20	5	52	48	12	12	11	23	21	109	100
Rural North	3	8	3	21	58	18	1	3	11	31	36	100

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 8
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by type of firearm, provinces and territories, rural and urban regions, 2020

Geography	Handgun			Rifle/shotgun			Other firearm ¹		Firearm-like weapon or unknown weapon ²		Total	
	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	#	%	#	%
Yukon	7	27	17	10	38	24	0	0	9	35	26	100
Urban	5	38	14	5	38	14	0	0	3	23	13	100
Rural North	2	15	29	5	38	72	0	0	6	46	13	100
Northwest Territories	33	52	73	25	39	55	1	2	5	8	64	100
Urban	8	80	36	0	0	0	1	10	1	10	10	100
Rural North	25	46	110	25	46	110	0	0	4	7	54	100
Nunavut	1	3	3	17	52	43	1	3	14	42	33	100

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Includes fully automatic firearms and sawed-off rifles 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 per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

4. Excludes data for the Saint John Municipal Police Service (SJPS) due to data quality concerns.

Note: Weapon is based on the most serious weapon present in the incident. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Excludes data for the Saint John Municipal Police Service (SJPS) due to data quality concerns. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or CA. See "Data sources and concepts" for further information. Rural North includes all rural police services in the Territories or in the Provincial North. Provincial North encompasses the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Rural South refers to rural police services in the southern regions of these provinces as well as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Table 9
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by type of firearm, census metropolitan areas, 2020

Geography	Handgun			Rifle/shotgun			Other firearm ¹		Firearm-like weapon ²		Total	
	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canada	4,542	54	16	1,506	18	5	416	5	1,880	23	8,344	100
Urban	4,200	63	17	763	12	3	298	5	1,356	20	6,617	100
Total census metropolitan areas⁴	3,808	68	18	522	9	2	213	4	1,048	19	5,591	100
St. John's	13	50	6	4	15	2	1	4	8	31	26	100
Halifax	54	61	12	17	19	4	1	1	17	19	89	100
Moncton	24	44	14	10	18	6	3	5	18	33	55	100
Ottawa ⁵	145	78	13	5	3	0	0	0	35	19	185	100
Kingston	13	48	7	2	7	1	0	0	12	44	27	100
Belleville ⁶	4	31	3	3	23	3	0	0	6	46	13	100
Peterborough	18	69	14	3	12	2	0	0	5	19	26	100
Toronto ⁷	1,582	86	27	54	3	1	17	1	185	10	1,838	100
Hamilton ⁸	158	71	27	8	4	1	11	5	47	21	224	100
St. Catharines–Niagara	74	57	15	6	5	1	1	1	49	38	130	100
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	98	73	16	5	4	1	9	7	22	16	134	100
Brantford	42	51	29	9	11	6	3	4	28	34	82	100
Guelph	12	67	8	2	11	1	0	0	4	22	18	100
London	49	58	9	8	10	1	3	4	24	29	84	100
Windsor	103	80	32	7	5	2	3	2	16	12	129	100
Barrie	14	78	8	1	6	1	0	0	3	17	18	100
Greater Sudbury	19	46	11	9	22	5	1	2	12	29	41	100
Thunder Bay	7	54	6	2	15	2	1	8	3	23	13	100
Winnipeg	220	50	26	79	18	9	33	7	109	25	441	100
Regina	50	31	19	35	22	13	26	16	50	31	161	100
Saskatoon	43	29	13	37	25	11	29	20	38	26	147	100
Lethbridge ⁶	15	52	12	3	10	2	0	0	11	38	29	100
Calgary	354	68	23	53	10	3	3	1	107	21	517	100
Edmonton	229	54	16	69	16	5	41	10	88	21	427	100

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 9
Victims of police-reported violent crime, by type of firearm, census metropolitan areas, 2020

Geography	Handgun			Rifle/shotgun			Other firearm ¹		Firearm-like weapon ²		Total	
	#	%	rate ³	#	%	rate ³	#	%	#	%	#	%
Kelowna	22	65	10	7	21	3	0	0	5	15	34	100
Abbotsford–Mission	21	58	10	6	17	3	1	3	8	22	36	100
Vancouver	278	62	10	51	11	2	22	5	95	21	446	100
Victoria	18	39	4	15	33	4	0	0	13	28	46	100

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

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

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 per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

4. Includes Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police, which are responsible for policing more than one census metropolitan area (CMA). This total also includes the portion of Durham Regional Police that polices the Oshawa CMA. This also includes the CMA of Saint John, excluding the Saint John Police Service due to data quality concerns. Because of these inclusions, the CMA total will not equal the total of the individual CMAs.

5. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

6. As of the 2016 Census, Belleville and Lethbridge became new CMAs.

7. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto CMA. As a result, counts and rates may differ from information from other sources.

8. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton CMA. As a result, counts and rates may differ from information from other sources.

Note: Weapon is based on the most serious weapon present in the incident. 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, 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. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. The CMA of Saint John is excluded from this table due to data quality concerns. Excludes Quebec due to the large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Table 10
Presence of a handgun as a proportion of firearm-related crime, by violation against the victim, Canada, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Violation	2009 to 2014	2015 to 2020	2019	2020
	percent			
Homicide and other violations causing death and attempted murder	66	63	63	60
Sexual assaults and sexual violations against children ¹	58	49	52	54
Physical assaults	32	40	40	39
Assault levels 1 and 2	32	40	41	37
Common assault and other assaults	33	40	39	45
Robbery	83	77	76	75
Uttering threats	37	42	41	39
Violent firearms offences	39	53	55	51
Pointing a firearm	39	45	47	42
Discharging a firearm with intent	34	62	64	60
Use of a firearm in the commission of an offence	48	50	54	52
Other violent offences	64	59	60	60
Total all violent offences	59	59	59	54

1. Sexual violations against children include sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, luring a child via telecommunications/agreement or arrangement, making sexually explicit material available to a child for the purpose of facilitating sexual offences against children/youth, and the offences of parent or guardian procuring sexual activity, householder permitting prohibited sexual activity, agreement or arrangement of a sexual offence against a child, and bestiality in the presence of or inciting a child (s. 160(3)). Incidents of child pornography are not included in the category of sexual violations against children.

Note: Firearm-related crime is the number of victims reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Violation represents the most serious violation against the victim. 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 and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Table 11
Victims of police-reported violent firearm-related crime, Canada, by age and gender and region, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Characteristics	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019			2020		
	average rate ¹	% ²	average rate ¹	% ²	number	rate ³	% ²	number	rate ³	%
Canada										
Male victims⁴	31	67	37	68	5,642	40	69	5,571	39	67
Under 18 years	27	19	26	14	781	28	14	600	21	11
18 to 24 years	84	28	100	26	1,500	108	27	1,364	98	25
25 years and older	24	53	31	59	3,319	33	59	3,544	35	64
Female victims⁴	15	33	17	32	2,578	18	31	2,744	19	33
Under 18 years	11	16	11	12	335	12	13	327	12	12
18 to 24 years	39	25	46	23	560	44	22	608	48	22
25 years and older	12	59	15	65	1,677	16	65	1,803	17	66
Total victims⁵	23	...	27	...	8,256	29	...	8,344	29	...
Urban										
Male victims⁴	31	68	37	70	4,706	39	70	4,524	37	69
Under 18 years	27	18	26	14	650	27	14	487	20	11
18 to 24 years	86	29	101	28	1,332	110	29	1,180	98	26
25 years and older	23	53	30	58	2,682	32	58	2,794	32	63
Female victims⁴	14	32	16	30	1,970	16	30	2,068	17	31
Under 18 years	10	15	10	12	262	11	13	243	11	12
18 to 24 years	38	26	42	24	446	40	23	472	42	23
25 years and older	11	59	14	64	1,257	14	64	1,347	15	65
Total victims⁵	22	...	26	...	6,699	27	...	6,617	27	...
Rural South										
Male victims⁴	21	61	27	60	541	31	62	608	34	61
Under 18 years	23	23	17	12	70	20	13	57	16	9
18 to 24 years	46	18	66	19	90	65	17	109	79	18
25 years and older	17	59	25	69	381	30	70	442	34	73
Female victims⁴	14	39	18	40	331	19	38	390	22	39
Under 18 years	12	17	11	12	35	11	11	48	15	12
18 to 24 years	33	19	48	19	61	49	18	71	57	18
25 years and older	12	64	17	70	234	18	71	271	21	69
Total victims⁵	17	...	23	...	875	25	...	1,001	28	...

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 11**Victims of police-reported violent firearm-related crime, Canada, by age and gender and region, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020**

Characteristics	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019			2020		
	average rate ¹	% ²	average rate ¹	% ²	number	rate ³	% ²	number	rate ³	%
Rural North										
Male victims⁴	64	62	88	60	395	92	59	439	102	61
Under 18 years	54	22	58	17	61	57	15	56	52	13
18 to 24 years	146	22	189	20	78	200	20	75	195	17
25 years and older	56	56	85	64	256	90	65	308	108	70
Female victims⁴	42	38	62	40	277	67	41	286	69	39
Under 18 years	34	21	39	16	38	37	14	36	35	13
18 to 24 years	100	22	156	21	53	152	19	65	185	23
25 years and older	37	57	58	63	186	67	67	185	67	65
Total victims⁵	53	...	76	...	682	81	...	726	86	...

... not applicable

1. Average rates are calculated per 100,000 population and are based on the total count of victims over the time period divided by the sum of the populations for each year in the six-year time period.

2. For gender, percent is of all victims excluding unknown gender. For age groups, percent is within each gender group, excluding unknown age.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

4. Includes unknown age. The option for police to code victims as gender diverse in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was implemented in 2018. Given that small counts of victims identified as "gender diverse" may exist, the UCR aggregate data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "male" or "female", in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Victims identified as gender diverse have been assigned to either male or female based on the regional distribution of victims' gender.

5. Includes victims where gender is unknown.

Note: Firearm-related crime is the number of victims reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or CA. See "Data sources and concepts" for further information. Rural North includes all rural police services in the Territories or in the Provincial North. Provincial North encompasses the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Rural South refers to rural police services in the southern regions of these provinces as well as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Table 12
Victims of police-reported violent firearm-related crime, by injury and weapon causing injury, Canada, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Characteristics	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019			2020		
	average rate ¹	% ²	average rate ¹	% ²	number	rate ³	% ²	number	rate ³	% ²
Total victims⁴	22.6	100	27.2	100	8,256	28.7	100	8,344	28.7	100
No injury (no weapon or physical force)	2.6	11	3.0	11	915	3.2	11	941	3.2	11
No injury (although weapon or physical force used)	12.1	54	13.9	51	4,286	14.9	52	4,139	14.2	50
Minor injury ⁵	5.3	23	5.9	22	1,715	6.0	21	1,828	6.3	22
Firearm	3.3	62	3.6	60	1,057	3.7	62	1,116	3.8	61
Other weapon ⁶	0.8	16	1.0	17	291	1.0	17	318	1.1	17
Physical force (no weapon)	1.1	22	1.4	23	367	1.3	21	394	1.4	22
Serious injury	1.3	6	2.0	8	693	2.4	8	705	2.4	8
Firearm	1.0	82	1.7	83	575	2.0	83	599	2.1	85
Other weapon ⁶	0.2	13	0.3	13	90	0.3	13	79	0.3	11
Physical force (no weapon)	0.1	6	0.1	4	28	0.1	4	27	0.1	4
Death	0.5	2	0.8	3	231	0.8	3	254	0.9	3
Firearm	0.5	99	0.8	100	230	0.8	100	252	0.9	99
Other weapon ⁶	0.0	1	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	2	0.0	1
Physical force (no weapon)	0.0	0	0.0	0	1	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Unknown injury ⁷	0.9	4	1.6	6	416	1.4	5	477	1.6	6
Firearm	0.7	75	1.3	85	339	1.2	81	397	1.4	83
Other weapon ⁶	0.1	15	0.1	9	48	0.2	12	50	0.2	10
Physical force (no weapon)	0.1	11	0.1	6	29	0.1	7	30	0.1	6
Male victims⁸	30.5	100	37.0	100	5,642	39.5	100	5,571	38.6	100
No weapon or physical force	3.0	10	3.7	10	577	4.0	10	562	3.9	10
No injury (note although weapon or physical force used)	15.7	52	18.2	49	2,795	19.6	50	2,671	18.5	48
Minor injury ⁵	7.5	25	8.2	22	1,196	8.4	21	1,215	8.4	22
Firearm	4.9	65	5.2	64	782	5.5	65	790	5.5	65
Other weapon ⁶	1.2	16	1.4	17	207	1.4	17	208	1.4	17
Physical force (no weapon)	1.4	18	1.5	19	207	1.4	17	217	1.5	18
Serious injury	2.3	7	3.6	10	604	4.2	11	612	4.2	11
Firearm	1.9	83	3.0	84	510	3.6	84	532	3.7	87
Other weapon ⁶	0.3	13	0.5	13	75	0.5	12	64	0.4	10
Physical force (no weapon)	0.1	4	0.1	3	19	0.1	3	16	0.1	3
Death	0.8	3	1.3	3	203	1.4	4	212	1.5	4
Firearm	0.8	99	1.3	100	203	1.4	100	211	1.5	100
Other weapon ⁶	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	1	0.0	0
Physical force (no weapon)	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Unknown injury ⁷	1.1	4	2.0	5	267	1.9	5	299	2.1	5
Firearm	0.9	77	1.8	88	225	1.6	84	259	1.8	87
Other weapon ⁶	0.2	13	0.2	9	31	0.2	12	27	0.2	9
Physical force (no weapon)	0.1	9	0.1	4	11	0.1	4	13	0.1	4

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 12
Victims of police-reported violent firearm-related crime, by injury and weapon causing injury, Canada, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Characteristics	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019			2020		
	average rate ¹	% ²	average rate ¹	% ²	number	rate ³	% ²	number	rate ³	% ²
Female victims⁸	14.7	100	17.3	100	2,578	17.8	100	2,744	18.7	100
No weapon or physical force	2.1	14	2.3	13	335	2.3	13	377	2.6	14
No injury	8.4	58	9.6	56	1,476	10.2	57	1,463	10.0	53
Minor injury ⁵	3.0	21	3.7	21	518	3.6	20	611	4.2	22
Firearm	1.7	56	1.9	51	275	1.9	53	325	2.2	53
Other weapon ⁶	0.5	15	0.6	17	83	0.6	16	110	0.7	18
Physical force (no weapon)	0.9	29	1.2	32	160	1.1	31	176	1.2	29
Serious injury	0.3	2	0.5	3	89	0.6	3	93	0.6	3
Firearm	0.2	73	0.4	74	65	0.4	73	67	0.5	72
Other weapon ⁶	0.0	10	0.1	16	15	0.1	17	15	0.1	16
Physical force (no weapon)	0.0	17	0.1	11	9	0.1	10	11	0.1	12
Death	0.2	1	0.2	1	28	0.2	1	42	0.3	2
Firearm	0.2	98	0.2	98	27	0.2	96	41	0.3	98
Other weapon ⁶	0.0	2	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	1	0.0	2
Physical force (no weapon)	0.0	0	0.0	1	1	0.0	4	0	0.0	0
Unknown injury ⁷	0.6	4	0.9	5	132	0.9	5	158	1.1	6
Firearm	0.4	71	0.7	76	98	0.7	74	119	0.8	75
Other weapon ⁶	0.1	16	0.1	13	16	0.1	12	22	0.1	14
Physical force (no weapon)	0.1	13	0.1	12	18	0.1	14	17	0.1	11

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Average rates are calculated per 100,000 population and are based on the total count of victims over the time period divided by the sum of the populations for each year in the six-year time period.

2. For injury, percent is of all victims including those with unknown injury: For weapon causing injury, percent is within each injury group.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

4. Includes victims where gender is unknown.

5. A minor injury is defined as a physical injury that required no professional medical treatment or only some first aid.

6. Includes all weapons other than firearms, such as knives, clubs or blunt instruments, poison, motor vehicles, ligature, or fire. Includes victims where the type of weapon causing injury is unknown.

7. Injury is considered unknown when the extent of injuries to the victim could not be determined though weapons or physical force were used against the victim.

8. The option for police to code victims as gender diverse in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was implemented in 2018. Given that small counts of victims identified as "gender diverse" may exist, the UCR aggregate data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "male" or "female", in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Victims identified as gender diverse have been assigned to either male or female based on the regional distribution of victims' gender.

Note: Firearm-related crime is the number of victims reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. 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 and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Table 13
Victims of police-reported violent firearm-related crime, by relationship of accused to victim and region, Canada, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Characteristics	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019			2020		
	average rate ¹	% ²	average rate ¹	% ²	number	rate ³	% ²	number	rate ³	% ²
Canada										
Male victims⁴										
Spouse ⁵	0.2	1	0.2	1	27	0.2	0	33	0.3	1
Ex-spouse ⁶	0.1	0	0.1	0	10	0.1	0	7	0.1	0
Other family member ⁷	1.3	4	1.6	4	215	1.5	4	290	2.0	5
Other intimate partner ⁸	0.3	1	0.4	1	75	0.6	1	85	0.7	2
Friend or casual acquaintance	7.9	26	9.3	25	1,363	9.5	24	1,575	10.9	28
Stranger	19.1	62	22.4	61	3,413	23.9	60	3,072	21.3	55
Other relationship	1.3	4	2.3	6	417	2.9	7	396	2.7	7
Unknown relationship	0.4	1	0.7	2	122	0.9	2	113	0.8	2
Female victims⁴										
Spouse ⁵	1.5	9	1.7	8	211	1.7	8	240	1.9	9
Ex-spouse ⁶	0.4	2	0.4	2	52	0.4	2	52	0.4	2
Other family member ⁷	0.9	6	1.2	7	172	1.2	7	187	1.3	7
Other intimate partner ⁸	1.2	7	2.2	11	329	2.6	13	393	3.0	14
Friend or casual acquaintance	2.6	18	3.3	19	519	3.6	20	626	4.3	23
Stranger	8.1	55	8.4	49	1,195	8.2	46	1,125	7.7	41
Other relationship	0.4	3	0.6	4	93	0.6	4	108	0.7	4
Unknown relationship	0.0	0	0.1	0	7	0.0	0	13	0.1	0
Urban										
Male victims⁴										
Spouse ⁵	0.1	0	0.2	0	18	0.2	0	19	0.2	0
Ex-spouse ⁶	0.1	0	0.1	0	7	0.1	0	6	0.1	0
Other family member ⁷	0.8	3	1.0	3	111	0.9	2	162	1.3	4
Other intimate partner ⁸	0.2	1	0.4	1	56	0.5	1	69	0.6	2
Friend or casual acquaintance	6.5	21	7.8	21	978	8.1	21	1,102	9.0	24
Stranger	21.3	69	24.4	67	3,146	26.0	67	2,778	22.7	61
Other relationship	1.2	4	2.0	5	279	2.3	6	289	2.4	6
Unknown relationship	0.5	2	0.8	2	111	0.9	2	99	0.8	2
Female victims⁴										
Spouse ⁵	1.0	6	1.2	6	112	1.1	6	147	1.4	7
Ex-spouse ⁶	0.3	2	0.3	2	35	0.3	2	35	0.3	2
Other family member ⁷	0.6	4	0.8	5	105	0.8	5	112	0.9	5
Other intimate partner ⁸	1.0	6	1.7	10	220	2.0	11	270	2.5	13
Friend or casual acquaintance	2.0	15	2.6	16	330	2.7	17	416	3.3	20
Stranger	8.9	65	8.9	57	1,094	8.9	56	1,000	8.0	48
Other relationship	0.3	2	0.5	3	67	0.5	3	78	0.6	4
Unknown relationship	0.0	0	0.1	0	7	0.1	0	10	0.1	0

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 13 — continued

Victims of police-reported violent firearm-related crime, by relationship of accused to victim and region, Canada, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Characteristics	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019			2020		
	average rate ¹	% ²	average rate ¹	% ²	number	rate ³	% ²	number	rate ³	% ²
Rural South										
Male victims⁴										
Spouse ⁵	0.5	2	0.5	1	6	0.4	1	10	0.7	2
Ex-spouse ⁶	0.1	0	0.1	0	2	0.1	0	1	0.1	0
Other family member ⁷	2.3	11	3.1	11	52	2.9	10	69	3.9	11
Other intimate partner ⁸	0.3	1	0.5	1	10	0.6	2	10	0.6	2
Friend or casual acquaintance	10.2	49	11.5	43	209	11.8	39	278	15.6	46
Stranger	6.0	29	8.6	32	179	10.1	33	191	10.7	31
Other relationship	1.3	6	2.4	9	76	4.3	14	38	2.1	6
Unknown relationship	0.2	1	0.3	1	7	0.4	1	11	0.6	2
Female victims⁴										
Spouse ⁵	3.3	20	3.5	16	57	3.9	17	52	3.5	13
Ex-spouse ⁶	0.6	4	0.7	3	10	0.7	3	10	0.7	3
Other family member ⁷	1.7	12	2.0	11	33	1.9	10	32	1.8	8
Other intimate partner ⁸	1.9	12	3.0	14	54	3.5	16	63	4.1	16
Friend or casual acquaintance	3.6	27	4.8	26	90	5.2	27	131	7.5	34
Stranger	3.0	22	4.5	25	72	4.1	22	84	4.8	22
Other relationship	0.4	3	0.8	4	15	0.9	5	16	0.9	4
Unknown relationship	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	2	0.1	1
Rural North										
Male victims⁴										
Spouse ⁵	2.0	2	1.9	2	3	0.9	1	4	1.2	1
Ex-spouse ⁶	0.4	0	0.1	0	1	0.3	0	0	0.0	0
Other family member ⁷	9.1	14	11.6	13	52	12.0	13	59	13.7	13
Other intimate partner ⁸	0.8	1	1.6	2	9	2.5	2	6	1.7	1
Friend or casual acquaintance	33.8	53	40.1	46	176	40.8	45	195	45.2	44
Stranger	13.4	21	22.1	25	88	20.4	22	103	23.9	23
Other relationship	5.2	8	10.8	12	62	14.4	16	69	16.0	16
Unknown relationship	0.0	0	0.5	1	4	0.9	1	3	0.7	1

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 13
Victims of police-reported violent firearm-related crime, by relationship of accused to victim and region, Canada, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Characteristics	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019			2020		
	average rate ¹	% ²	average rate ¹	% ²	number	rate ³	% ²	number	rate ³	% ²
Female victims⁴										
Spouse ⁵	9.4	18	11.2	14	42	12.9	15	41	12.5	14
Ex-spouse ⁶	1.3	3	1.6	2	7	2.1	3	7	2.1	2
Other family member ⁷	7.2	17	9.6	16	34	8.2	12	43	10.4	15
Other intimate partner ⁸	5.3	11	13.8	19	55	16.0	20	60	17.4	21
Friend or casual acquaintance	14.4	34	18.7	30	99	24.0	36	79	19.1	28
Stranger	6.2	15	9.5	15	29	7.0	10	41	9.9	14
Other relationship	1.2	3	2.2	4	11	2.7	4	14	3.4	5
Unknown relationship	0.0	0	0.1	0	0	0.0	0	1	0.2	0

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero

1. Average rates are calculated per 100,000 population and are based on the total count of victims over the time period divided by the sum of the populations for each year in the six-year time period.

2. Percent calculation includes unknown relationship.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

4. The option for police to code victims as gender diverse in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was implemented in 2018. Given that small counts of victims identified as "gender diverse" may exist, the UCR aggregate data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "male" or "female", in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Victims identified as gender diverse have been assigned to either male or female based on the regional distribution of victims' gender.

5. Includes victims aged 15 years and older. Includes current legally married spouses and common-law partners, as well as boyfriends or girlfriends of victims living with the victim at the time of the incident. Spousal violence victims under the age of 15 years are included in the category "other family". Rates are calculated on the basis of populations aged 15 years and older.

6. Includes victims aged 15 years and older. Includes former legally married spouses and common-law partners, as well as former boyfriends or girlfriends of victims living with the victim at the time of the incident. Spousal violence victims under the age of 15 years are included in the category "other family." Rates are calculated on the basis of populations aged 15 years and older.

7. Includes victims of all non-spousal family members related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption. Examples include parents, children, siblings, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and in-laws.

8. Includes victims aged 12 to 14 years who were victimized by boyfriends and girlfriends of, as well as victims of boyfriends and girlfriends of victims aged 15 years and older not living with the victim at the time of the incident. Also includes victims aged 12 and older who were victims of other persons with whom the victim had a sexual relationship or a mutual sexual attraction but to which none of the other relationship categories apply. Rates are based on populations aged 12 years and older.

Note: Firearm-related crime is the number of victims reported by police in incidents where a firearm was present. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or CA. See "Data sources and concepts" for further information. Rural North includes all rural police services in the Territories or in the Provincial North. Provincial North encompasses the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Rural South refers to rural police services in the southern regions of these provinces as well as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Table 14
Individuals accused of violent firearm-related crime, by age and gender and region, Canada, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Characteristics	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019		2020			
	average rate ¹	% ²	average rate ¹	%	number	rate ³	%	number	rate ³	%
Canada										
Male accused⁴	28	92	35	89	5,129	36	88	5,207	36	87
12 to 17 years	80	22	87	17	883	92	17	728	75	14
18 to 24 years	95	34	112	31	1,531	110	30	1,527	110	29
25 years and older	18	44	25	51	2,686	27	53	2,928	29	56
Female accused⁴	2	8	4	11	689	5	12	746	5	13
12 to 17 years	5	16	9	13	75	8	11	91	10	12
18 to 24 years	8	32	15	30	221	17	32	220	17	30
25 years and older	2	52	3	57	392	4	57	434	4	58
Total accused⁵	15	...	19	...	5,832	20	...	5,955	20	...
Urban										
Male accused⁴	25	93	31	89	3,874	32	89	3,893	32	88
12 to 17 years	74	23	84	18	702	87	18	622	76	16
18 to 24 years	89	37	103	33	1,222	101	32	1,204	100	31
25 years and older	15	40	22	49	1,936	23	50	2,060	24	53
Female accused⁴	2	7	4	11	486	4	11	532	4	12
12 to 17 years	5	17	8	13	59	8	12	73	9	14
18 to 24 years	7	36	13	32	160	14	33	168	15	32
25 years and older	1	48	3	55	267	3	55	290	3	55
Total accused⁵	13	...	17	...	4,374	18	...	4,425	18	...
Rural South										
Male accused⁴	31	91	37	88	661	37	86	712	40	87
12 to 17 years	73	18	61	11	76	64	12	52	43	7
18 to 24 years	84	24	118	26	157	113	24	184	133	26
25 years and older	24	58	32	63	419	33	64	473	36	67
Female accused⁴	3	9	5	12	105	6	14	104	6	13
12 to 17 years	5	11	9	11	5	4	5	4	3	4
18 to 24 years	11	27	19	26	32	26	31	22	18	21
25 years and older	3	62	4	63	67	5	64	78	6	75
Total accused⁵	17	...	21	...	766	22	...	817	23	...

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 14
Individuals accused of violent firearm-related crime, by age and gender and region, Canada, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Characteristics	2009 to 2014		2015 to 2020		2019		2020			
	average rate ¹	% ²	average rate ¹	%	number	rate ³	%	number	rate ³	%
Rural North										
Male accused⁴	95	89	126	87	594	138	86	602	139	85
12 to 17 years	220	21	242	16	105	306	18	54	155	9
18 to 24 years	270	28	360	27	152	389	26	139	361	24
25 years and older	72	51	108	58	331	116	56	395	138	67
Female accused⁴	12	11	20	13	98	24	14	110	27	15
12 to 17 years	24	18	35	14	11	33	11	14	42	13
18 to 24 years	25	20	57	24	29	83	30	30	85	27
25 years and older	11	62	18	62	58	21	59	66	24	60
Total accused⁵	55	...	74	...	692	82	...	713	84	...

... not applicable

1. Average rates are calculated per 100,000 population and are based on the total count of accused over the time period divided by the sum of the populations for each year in the six-year time period.

2. For gender percent is of all accused excluding unknown gender: For age groups, percent is within each gender group, excluding accused where age is under 12 years or unknown.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography.

4. Includes unknown age and accused under age 12. The option for police to code accused as gender diverse in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was implemented in 2018. Given that small counts of accused persons identified as "gender diverse" may exist, the UCR aggregate data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "male" or "female", in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Accused persons identified as gender diverse have been assigned to either male or female based on the regional distribution of the accused persons' gender.

5. Includes accused persons where gender is unknown.

Note: This table provides information on individuals accused in incidents of violent offences where a firearm was present whether or not a victim record was provided by police. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or CA. See "Data sources and concepts" for further information. Rural North includes all rural police services in the Territories or in the Provincial North. Provincial North encompasses the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Rural South refers to rural police services in the southern regions of these provinces as well as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.

Table 15
Percentage of accused individuals charged in firearm-related crimes, by age and gender and region, 2009 to 2014, 2015 to 2020, 2019 and 2020

Characteristics	2009 to 2014	2015 to 2020	2019	2020
	percent of accused charged			
Canada				
Male accused¹	82	88	88	88
12 to 17 years	71	82	82	82
18 to 24 years	88	90	90	90
25 years and older	85	89	90	89
Female accused¹	74	83	85	82
12 to 17 years	69	77	69	76
18 to 24 years	78	88	90	84
25 years and older	75	83	85	83
Total accused²	81	87	88	87
Urban				
Male accused¹	86	90	90	89
12 to 17 years	76	84	84	83
18 to 24 years	91	91	91	91
25 years and older	89	91	92	91
Female accused¹	81	86	88	83
12 to 17 years	78	80	75	77
18 to 24 years	84	88	94	85
25 years and older	81	85	88	83
Total accused²	85	89	90	89
Rural South				
Male accused¹	73	83	84	85
12 to 17 years	50	74	70	81
18 to 24 years	80	86	90	85
25 years and older	80	84	86	86
Female accused¹	65	80	82	82
12 to 17 years	46	62	60	50
18 to 24 years	66	89	81	86
25 years and older	69	80	85	82
Total accused²	72	82	84	84
Rural North				
Male accused¹	68	81	85	81
12 to 17 years	59	73	77	69
18 to 24 years	77	86	85	86
25 years and older	70	83	89	84
Female accused¹	57	75	72	82
12 to 17 years	50	72	45	79
18 to 24 years	52	79	79	80
25 years and older	64	73	74	83
Total accused²	66	80	83	81

1. Includes unknown age and accused under age 12. The option for police to code accused as gender diverse in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was implemented in 2018. Given that small counts of accused persons identified as "gender diverse" may exist, the UCR aggregate data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "male" or "female", in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Accused persons identified as gender diverse have been assigned to either male or female based on the regional distribution of the accused persons' gender.

2. Includes accused persons where gender is unknown.

Note: This table provides information on individuals accused in incidents of violent offences where a firearm was present whether or not a victim record was provided by police. Excludes Quebec due to a large proportion of cases where the most serious weapon present was reported as unknown. Rural police services are those where the majority of the population lives outside of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA). Urban police services are those where the majority of the population lives within a CMA or CA. See "Data sources and concepts" for further information. Rural North includes all rural police services in the Territories or in the Provincial North. Provincial North encompasses the northern regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Rural South refers to rural police services in the southern regions of these provinces as well as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey trend file.