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Juristat

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics



Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE, Vol. 23, no. 8

HOMICIDE IN CANADA, 2002

by *Josée Savoie*

Highlights

- In 2002, Canadian police services reported 582 homicides, 29 more than the previous year. After having stabilized over a two-year period, the national homicide rate climbed 4% in 2002, to 1.85 homicides per 100,000 population. Previously, the rate had been gradually declining since the mid-1970s.
- The increase in the number of homicides at the national level was driven by a large increase in British Columbia, up from 84 homicides in 2001 to 126 in 2002. Part of this increase is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002.
- As has generally been the case historically, homicide rates were greater in the west than in the east in 2002. Among the provinces, Manitoba recorded the highest rate (3.13 homicides per 100,000 population), followed by British Columbia (3.04) and Saskatchewan (2.67). The lowest rates occurred in Newfoundland and Labrador (0.38), Prince Edward Island (0.71) and Nova Scotia (0.95). In 2002, Quebec recorded a rate of 1.58, its lowest since 1968.
- Among the nine largest metropolitan regions, Winnipeg (3.41) reported the highest homicide rate, followed by Vancouver (3.26), while Quebec (0.44) and Ottawa (0.93) reported the lowest rates. For the 17 mid-sized and smaller metropolitan regions, Saskatoon (3.41) and Gatineau (2.21) recorded the highest homicide rates, while Oshawa, with no homicides, and St. John's (0.57), with 1 homicide, had the lowest.
- In 2002, the rate of homicides committed with the use of a firearm continued to decline, reaching its lowest level since 1966. Firearms were used in one quarter (26%) of all homicides in 2002, the lowest proportion since statistics were first collected in 1961. Handguns still accounted for nearly two thirds of the firearms used in homicide incidents. In 2002, a further 31% of all homicide victims died from a stabbing, 21% of the victims had been beaten to death and 11% were strangled.
- Most homicides were committed by a person known to the victim. Of the homicide cases that were solved in 2002, 44% were perpetrated by an acquaintance, 40% by a family member and 15% by a stranger.
- The spousal homicide rate dropped slightly in 2002 (-3%), following a 25% increase in 2001. Spousal homicides accounted for one out of every five solved homicides and almost half (46%) of all family homicides. In 2002, 84 spousal homicides occurred: 67 women were killed by their husbands, 16 men were killed by their wives and 1 woman was killed by her same-sex partner. In addition to the 84 spousal homicides, there were 98 family-related homicides, including 28 victims who were killed by their fathers and 8 by their mothers.
- In 2002, 42 youths (12 to 17 years) were charged with homicide, 12 more than in 2001. Despite this increase, the number of youths charged was still lower than the past 10-year average (50).
- For a second consecutive year, incidents of homicide between gang members (45) dropped substantially in 2002, with 16 fewer such homicides than in 2001. Quebec accounted largely for this decrease. The number of gang-related homicides more than tripled nationally between 1992 (19) and 2000 (72).
- For incidents in which it was possible to determine that alcohol/drug consumption had been a factor in 2002, police reported that more than half (52%) of all homicide victims and two thirds (68%) of all accused had consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the offence, similar to the pattern observed since 1991.



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INTRODUCTION

Some causes of death are particularly notable for their violence, with suicide and homicide prime examples of this phenomenon. These two causes of death do not, however, occur with the same frequency. Suicide (13.4 per 100,000 population¹) occurs far more commonly than homicide (1.85 per 100,000 population). However, homicide remains of great interest for its gravity and for the fact that it is generally recognized by experts as a barometer of violent crime in a given society.

Using data collected through the Homicide Survey,² this *Juristat* examines short- and long-term trends for the crime of homicide at the national, provincial and territorial level, as well as for census metropolitan areas. Detailed information is also presented on the characteristics of homicide incidents, the victims and the accused.

GENERAL TRENDS

Homicide rate rose in 2002

After having stabilized over the previous two years, the national homicide rate rose 4% in 2002. The 582 homicides (29 more than in the previous year) accounted for 0.02% of the 2.5 million *Criminal Code* incidents that were reported to the police. By comparison, there were 682 attempted murders and approximately 27,000 robberies, 235,000 assaults and over 1 million property offences. British Columbia, which reported a sharp increase in its number of homicides (up 50%, from 84 homicides in 2001 to 126 homicides in 2002), largely accounted for the 2002 increase.³

Since 1961, when national homicide statistics were first collected, two trends have emerged. Following a period of stability between 1961 and 1966 (1.25 per 100,000 population), the homicide rate more than doubled, peaking (3.03) in 1975. Since 1976, despite annual fluctuations, the homicide rate gradually decreased through the late 1990s, when it stabilized at around 1.8 homicides per 100,000 population. In 2002, the homicide rate was 1.85, a 39% drop from the peak in of 1975 (Figure 1).

In 2002, there were 558 incidents, 44 more than in 2001. This increase brought the number of homicide incidents close to the average of 556 that had been recorded over the past decade. The number of incidents was less than the number of victims, since some incidents involved more than one victim.

The homicide rate has remained stable in the United States

Throughout the 1990s, the crime and homicide rates dropped in both Canada and in the United States.⁴ According to preliminary Federal Bureau of Investigation data, following a 2001 increase, the number of major crimes in the United States remained relatively stable in 2002 with respect to the previous year (+0.2%).⁵ The number of homicides also remained relatively stable (+0.8%).

Although the homicide rate increased in Canada in 2002, but not in the United States, Canada's homicide rate was one third that of the United States. However, the Canadian rate was still greater than that of many European nations, such as Switzerland and Germany (Table 1). In 2002, Canada's homicide rate was similar to that of France and Australia⁶.

1. See Mortality, summary list of causes - Shelf tables, 1999, No. 84-209-XPB in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Health Statistics Division, 2002.
2. For more information on the Homicide Survey, see the Methodology section at the end of this report.
3. Part of this increase is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the homicide report, which may not be the year in which they occurred. If these 15 victims were subtracted from the total 2002 count, the number of victims in British Columbia would have increased by 32%.
4. See M. Gannon, Crime comparisons between Canada and the United States, *Juristat*, No. 85-002-XPE in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Ottawa, vol. 21, No. 11, 2001.
5. United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, press release, June 16, 2003.
6. Police information provided by the National Central Bureau, Interpol, Ottawa.

Key terminology and definitions

Homicide occurs when a person directly or indirectly, by any means, causes the death of a human being. Homicide is either culpable (murder, manslaughter or infanticide) or non-culpable (not an offence) (*Criminal Code of Canada*, sections 222-240). Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide and accidental or justifiable homicide are not included in the Homicide Survey.

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

First degree murder occurs when:

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

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

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

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

Incident

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

Accused

A person who has been identified as a suspect in an incident and against whom a charge may be laid in connection with that incident.

Homicide count

The number of homicides reported in a given year represents the date that homicide became known to police. Typically, some homicides will be included in a given year's totals that occurred in prior years.

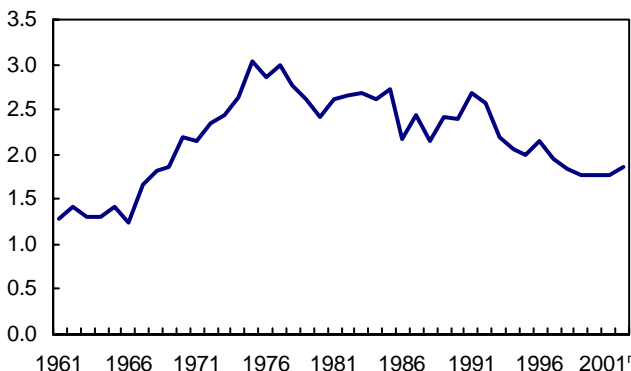
Homicide Rate

This technique serves to standardize data to permit comparisons between different geographic regions for different years and for different population sizes. The homicide rate is based on the number of victims per 100,000 population.

Figure 1



Rate per 100,000 population



^r revised

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

GEOGRAPHIC PATTERNS IN HOMICIDES

Homicide rate increases east to west

The overall decline in the national homicide rate since the mid-1970s reflects general declines recorded in many provinces during this period. The rates of the western provinces have been gradually declining, although they generally remain higher than the national rate. On the other hand, Atlantic province rates have remained relatively constant and well below the national level. As such, the homicide rate forms a gradient rising from Eastern to Western Canada.

Table 1

Country	Homicide rate per 100,000
Russia	20.54
Luxembourg	9.01
United States	5.52
Portugal	2.57
England & Wales	2.01
Denmark	1.99
Hungary	1.99
France	1.88
Canada	1.85
Australia	1.85
Tunisia	1.20
Switzerland	1.18
Germany	1.11
Austria	0.80

Source: National Central Bureau - Interpol Ottawa.

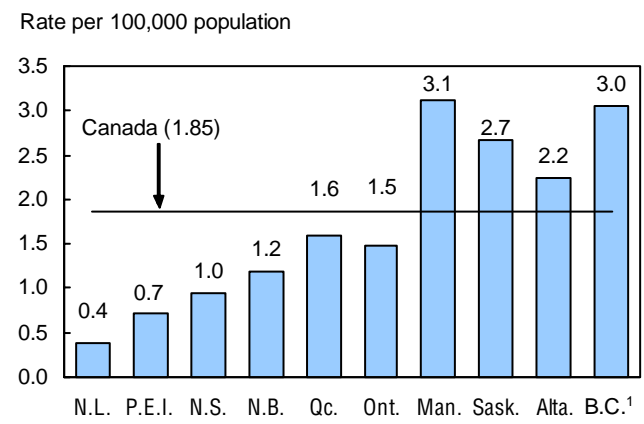
This trend continued in 2002 (Figure 2). Among the provinces, Manitoba posted the highest rate (3.13 homicides per 100,000 population), followed by British Columbia (3.04) and Saskatchewan (2.67). The lowest rates occurred in the Atlantic provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador (0.38), Prince Edward Island (0.71), Nova Scotia (0.95) and New Brunswick (1.19).

Most provinces remained stable or showed an increase in homicides in 2002 (Table 2). The largest increase occurred in British Columbia (up 50%, with a rise from 84 to 126 homicides).⁷ The only large drop occurred in Quebec (down 16%), which recorded 22 fewer homicides in 2002 than in 2001. Quebec's rate of 1.58 homicides per 100,000 population was its lowest since 1968.

7. See footnote 3.

Figure 2

Homicide Rate by Province, 2002



1. The rate for British Columbia includes 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the homicide report.

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

Homicide is more than just an urban phenomenon

Crime, and particularly homicide, is often considered an urban phenomenon. However, historical data show that the homicide rate for non-CMA areas has typically been similar to that of CMAs. In 2002, the homicide rate once again followed this trend. Regions with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants reported a homicide rate of 1.81, similar to the rate for Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs) as a whole (1.88).

Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) are large urban cores (population of 100,000 and over) together with adjacent urban and rural areas, which have a high degree of economic and social integration. The areas served by police services may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making it difficult to compare crime rates among these services. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police department is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a CMA.

Table 3 divides the CMAs into three population categories. The first category includes the largest CMAs, with populations of 500,000 and more. Historically, these CMAs have tended to post the highest homicide rates. This trend held true in 2002, with these nine CMAs having a combined rate of 2.03. Winnipeg reported the highest rate (3.41), followed by Vancouver (3.26) and Edmonton (2.79). Quebec City, with only three homicides in 2002, reported its lowest rate (0.44) since CMA statistics were first collected in 1981, followed by Ottawa with eight homicides (0.93). Toronto, Canada's largest metropolitan area, recorded a rate (1.80) that was below the national rate but similar to its previous 10-year average (1.74). Montreal, the nation's second-largest CMA, posted a rate of 1.87, which also represented its lowest rate in the past 20 years.

The second CMA category is comprised of mid-sized CMAs with populations of 250,000 to 499,999. In 2002, these CMAs had the lowest combined rate (1.25). Gatineau reported the

highest homicide rate (2.21), followed closely by Windsor (2.16). Oshawa (no homicides) and Kitchener (0.65) reported the lowest rates.

The third CMA category, comprised of the nine smallest metropolitan areas, with populations of from 100,000 to 249,999, reported a combined rate of 1.48. Saskatoon (3.41) reported the highest rate, followed by Regina (2.00) and Saint John (1.38). The lowest rates were recorded in St. John's (0.57), Sherbrooke (0.68) and Saguenay (0.66). It should be noted that, because of their small populations, even minor fluctuations in the number of homicides for the cities in this CMA group can greatly affect their homicide rates.

Table 4 presents the number of homicides committed within the jurisdiction of the 30 largest police services in Canada. The information it provides can be used to highlight the contributions of a given CMA's principal police services to the total number of reported homicides. For example, the Toronto Police Service reported 65 of the 90 homicides committed in the Toronto CMA. However, the increase in the number of homicides within the Toronto CMA in 2002 (12 more than in 2001) can be primarily attributed to an increase of 8 homicides reported by the York Regional Police Service.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE INCIDENTS

More than half of all homicides were first degree murders

Between 1977⁸ and 1990, the proportion of homicides classified by the police as first degree murders increased, levelling off at about half of all incidents (52% in 2002). On the other hand, the proportion of homicides classified as second degree murders dropped during the same period and now represents slightly more than one third (37%) of such incidents. The proportions of incidents of manslaughter and infanticide have remained quite stable over the years, at around 10% and 1% respectively of the total number of homicides.

The classification of homicide offences in this report is based upon initial police investigation. In the transition period from initial police investigation of the accused to final court disposition, the legal classification of an incident may change. However, these changes are not reflected in this report.

Substantial drop in multiple-victim homicides

One incident of homicide is defined as the occurrence of one or more criminal offences during one single distinct event, regardless of the number of victims. Homicide incidents involving more than one victim generally receive greater media coverage and public attention than those involving a single victim. In 2002, the vast majority (97%) of the 558 homicide incidents involved only a single victim. The 18 multiple-victim homicide incidents in 2002 was lower than the average of 31 seen over the past decade.

8. Corresponds to the year in which categories of first and second degree murder were established following the 1976 abolition of the death penalty (Bill C-105).

Of the multiple-victim homicide incidents that occurred in 2002, 15 incidents involved 2 victims, 2 incidents involved 3 victims and 1 incident involved 6 victims, for a total of 42 victims. An accused was identified in the case of 38 of the 42 victims. Most of these victims (62%) were killed by a family member (e.g., an immediate or extended family member related by blood, marriage or adoption), similar to previous years. While there were no differences by gender for victims of multiple-victim homicides, virtually all (96%) of those charged in these incidents were males.

Most murder-suicides are family-related

In 2002, 38 incidents (representing 7% of all homicide incidents) involving 47 victims were murder-suicides, slightly lower than the average number of 41 incidents over the past decade. All but one of the perpetrators who committed suicide at the time of these incidents in 2002 were male, and all of the incidents involved a lone perpetrator.

The vast majority of murder-suicides in 2002 (31 incidents, 39 victims) involved at least one family member (i.e., an immediate or extended family member related by blood, marriage or adoption). Of those that were family-related, 81% (25 incidents) involved a man killing either his spouse and/or children.

The seven murder-suicide incidents that were non-family related occurred as the result of a dispute or fit of rage or jealousy between lovers, friends, acquaintances or individuals with business relationships.

Three in four homicide incidents solved by police

In 2002, police solved 77% of the 558 reported homicide incidents through the identification of at least one accused person. Over the past ten years, this proportion has fluctuated between 75% and 83%. Since the process of solving a homicide can sometimes be complex and time-consuming, an incident may not be solved until after the year in which it was initially recorded. Therefore, these data for 2002 may underestimate final police clearance rates.

Of those homicide incidents cleared by police in 2002, charges were laid or recommended in 90% of the cases and the accused committed suicide immediately following the offence in 9%. The remaining 1% (4 incidents) were cleared for the following reasons: the Crown chose not to proceed due to the mental condition of the accused or the accused person died (from some cause other than suicide).

Six in ten homicides occur in residences

Of the 544 homicide incidents with a known location (14 were unknown) in 2002, almost two thirds (63%) took place in a private residence. In more than one third of these cases (39%), the residence was occupied solely by the victim. In another one third (33%) of the cases, the residence was occupied jointly by the victim and the accused. Not surprisingly, the vast majority (93%) of family-related homicides, including spousal homicides, occurred in a private residence, most commonly the home of both the victim and offender.

The remaining locations were distributed as follows: 24% in an open area (e.g., a parking lot, street or field), 8% in a commercial area (e.g., bar, restaurant, convenience store) and 3% in a private vehicle or taxi. The remaining 2% occurred in public institutions, three incidents of which were correctional facilities.

FIREARMS

Firearm use declined

Over the past 10 years, firearms have typically been used in about one third of all homicides (32%). This percentage dropped to 26% in 2002, the lowest reported since data were first collected in 1961 (Figure 5). Stabbings were the most common method of homicide in 2002 (31%). A further 21% of the victims had been beaten to death and 11% were strangled. Fire (smoke inhalation/burns), motor vehicles, shaking (shaken baby syndrome) and poisoning each accounted for 1% of all homicides (Table 7, Figure 3).

Gang-related homicides

Gang-related homicides decline

Gang-related homicides include homicides reported by the police as the consequence of activities related to gangs or gang members, such as biker gangs, street gangs, youth gangs and organized crime groups. Between 1997 and 2000, the number of victims of gang-related homicides more than doubled, from 28 to 72. Since then, there have been two annual decreases (Table 5). The 45 victims in 2002 still accounted for almost 1 in every 13 homicide victims.

From the first year in which such information was collected through the Homicide Survey (1991) until 2001, the number of gang-related homicide victims has always been much higher in Quebec than elsewhere in the country. However, in 2002, the figure for Quebec fell dramatically (Table 6). By contrast, both Ontario and the Prairies have seen an increase in gang-related homicides in recent years.

In 2002, 1 in 3 (13 incidents) gang-related homicides were drug-related according to police. In addition, there were 48 drug-related homicides that were not related to gang activity.

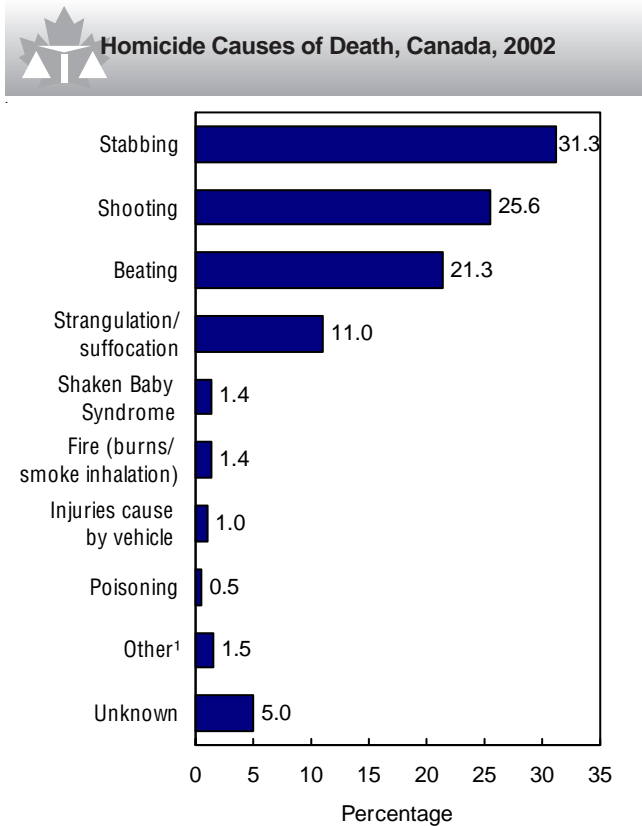
Other gang-related homicides resulted primarily from disputes or acts of revenge involving either gang members or rivals. Firearms were used in 60% of all gang murders, which represents the lowest proportion since 1996. Other victims of gang-related homicides in 2002 were stabbed (24%), beaten (11%) or strangled (4%).

In 2002, gang-related homicides were more likely to have occurred in public places (67%), such as bars, restaurants, parking lots, streets, highways and open areas. The proportion for other types of homicide is 24%. Conversely, non-gang-related homicides were most likely to occur in private residences (67%), compared to 24% for gang-related homicides.

The characteristics of victims and accused of gang-related homicides differed slightly from those of persons involved in other types of homicide. Victims and accused in gang-related homicides tended to be younger. In 2002, 60% of all gang-related homicide victims were between 18 and 29 years of age, compared to 28% of the victims in other types of homicide. Furthermore, three quarters (75%) of those accused in gang-related homicides in 2002 were between 18 and 29 years of age, compared to only 36% in other types of homicide. Of all gang-related homicides in 2002, 98% of victims and accused were male.

Seventy-nine percent of those accused of gang-related incidents had prior criminal records, with 58% holding previous convictions for violent offences. The comparable proportion was 45% for those accused of non-gang-related homicides. A large majority (80%) of gang-related homicide victims had been previously convicted on criminal charges. Sixty percent of these victims had been previously convicted for a violent crime other than homicide. In the case of victims of non-gang-related homicides, the comparable figure was 17%.

Figure 3



1. Other includes exposure, hypothermia and heart attack.
 Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Firearm Legislation

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

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

In 1991, Parliament strengthened the screening provisions for FAC applicants by introducing new legislation (Bill C-17). A multi-page form with a variety of questions concerning the applicant's personal and criminal history, personal references, picture, and a mandatory 28-day waiting period for approved FAC applicants was incorporated.

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

Figure 4 shows the firearm-related homicide rate between 1961 and 2002, indicating where legislative changes have been enacted. The information is not intended to establish a definitive cause-and-effect relationship between gun-control legislation and crime rates.

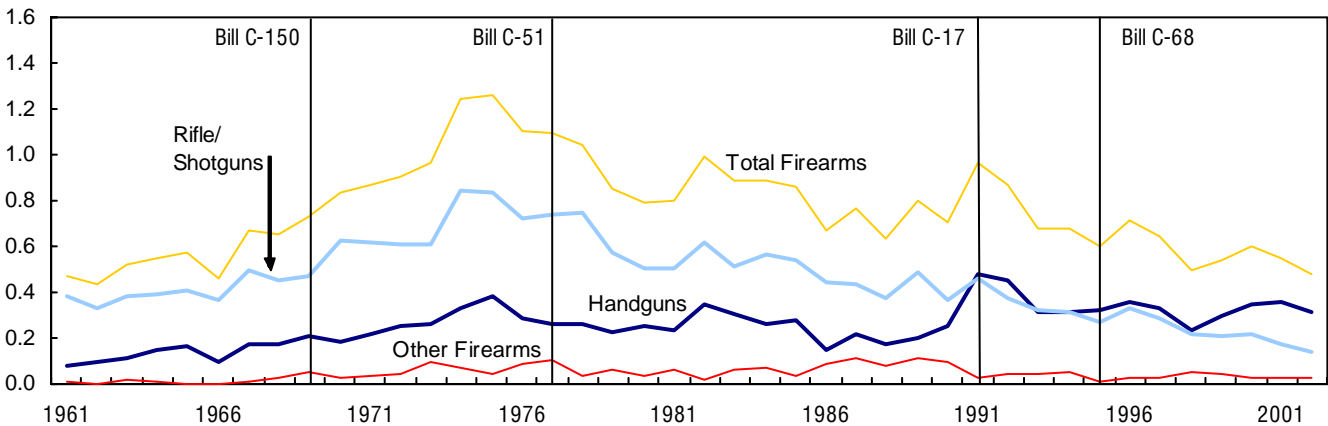
Homicides make up a relatively small proportion of all deaths caused by firearms. Among the 878 deaths in Canada due to firearms in 2000 (the last year for which figures are available), the largest proportion was attributable to suicide (78%), followed by homicide (18%) and accidental discharge (3%).⁹

9. Health Statistics Division, Causes of death, June 2003, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, 2003. Special request.

Figure 4

Rate of Firearm Homicides, 1961-2002

Rate per 100,000 population

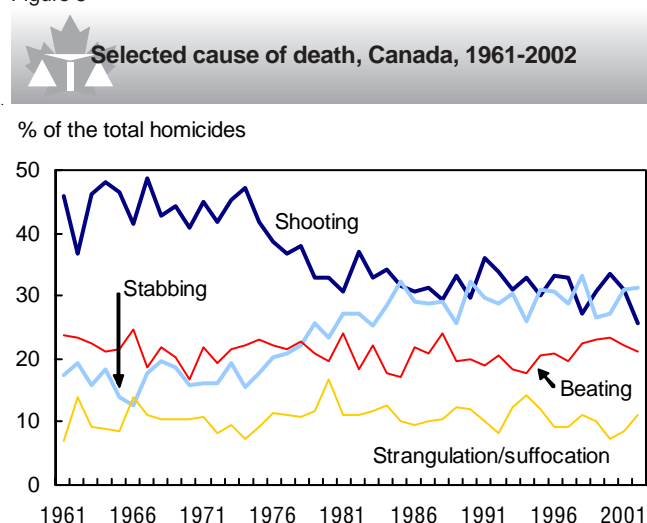


Note: See Firearm Legislation textbox for details of Bills.
 Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Among the 149 homicides committed with a firearm in 2002, handguns were the most commonly used weapon; 98 (66%) homicides were committed with a handgun, 37 (25%) with a rifle or shotgun, 6 (4%) with a sawed-off rifle or shotgun, 3 (2%) with a fully automatic firearm and 5 (3%) with other types of firearms (Table 8).

Prior to 1990, handguns were used in about 3 out of 10 firearm-related homicides. Between 1991 and 1999, the proportion climbed to about half of all firearm-related homicides. Since 1999 the proportion has risen, with handguns now accounting for almost two thirds of all firearm-related homicides. This rise has been driven by a steady decline in the number of rifles and shotguns (including sawed-off shotguns), down from approximately half (51%) of all firearm-related homicides in 1990 to 29% in 2002.

Figure 5



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

Three in four recovered handguns not registered

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting the following supplementary information on firearm incidents: firearm registration, ownership, possession of a valid FAC or Firearms Licence by the suspect, firearm status (stolen, lost or disappeared) and classification of the firearm. Analysis of these data focuses on handguns used in homicides, as the police have been required for some time to record such information as part of their investigations. However, it is important to note that a substantial portion of such information was either unknown to police at the time of the investigation, or the handgun was never recovered and the information is therefore unavailable. This analysis refers to cases where firearm registration, ownership and licensing information were known.

The available data suggest that most handguns used to commit homicide were not registered and the accused were not licensed firearm users. Studies in other countries on firearm use in homicides have reached similar conclusions.^{10,11}

Between 1997 and 2002, 574 homicides were committed with handguns. Among the 31% (176) of homicides in which a handgun was recovered, about three quarters (72%) of the

handguns were not registered. About four in five (81%) of all accused did not possess a valid FAC or Firearms Licence. Where ownership of the handgun could be determined by police, the accused owned the handgun in half (49%) of these homicides, compared to 3% in which it was owned by the victim. Someone other than the accused or victim owned the handgun in the remaining incidents.

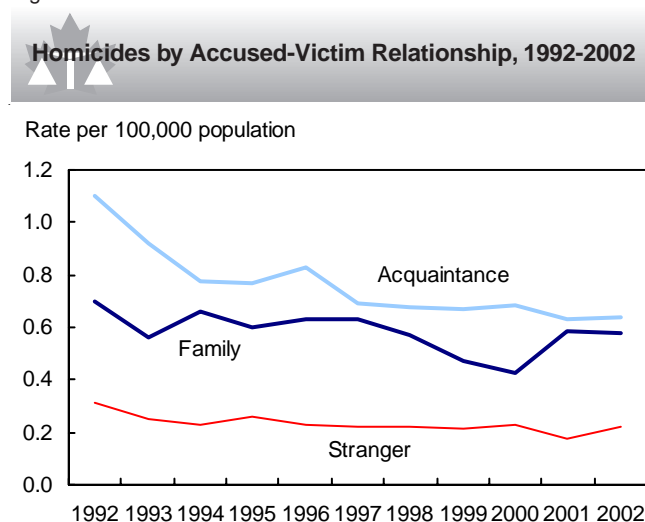
ACCUSED-VICTIM RELATIONSHIP

The Homicide Survey collects data on the relationships between persons accused of homicide and their victims. The following analysis is based on the total count of victims for whom an accused was identified, 78% of all victims in 2002.

The data indicate that homicides are far more likely to be committed by someone known to the victim than by a stranger. In 2002, accused who were known to the victim accounted for 84% of all solved homicides — 44% were committed by an acquaintance (i.e., non-family) of the victim and another 40% by a family member (Table 9). The remaining victims (15%) were killed by strangers. Among the 200 victims killed by an acquaintance, 100 were killed by a causal acquaintance, 29 were killed by a boyfriend or girlfriend, 16 were killed by an estranged boyfriend or girlfriend and 37 were killed by someone with whom they had a criminal relationship (i.e., prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients).

Although 15 more victims were killed by strangers in 2002 than in 2001, the total of 69 victims killed in this manner was identical to the average number of the past 10 years. Furthermore, the proportion of stranger homicides has remained relatively stable over the past 10 years, ranging from 12% to 17% of all homicides (Figure 6). Half of the victims who were killed by

Figure 6



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

10. Home Office, *Criminal Statistics England and Wales 1997*, Research Development and Statistics Directorate, The Stationery Office, London, 1998.
 11. J. Mouzos, *The Licensing and Registration Status of Firearms Used in Homicide*, Trends and Questions in Crime and Criminal Justice, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, No. 151, 2001.

strangers in 2002 were murdered during the commission of another criminal offence, usually assault, robbery or sexual assault. Of the total number of solved homicides, male victims were more likely (20%) to be killed by strangers than were female victims (7%).

The number of mothers accused of homicide falls to its lowest level since 1965

Family homicides include homicides of a spouse, a parent, children, siblings or other members related by blood, marriage or adoption. There were 182 victims of family homicide in 2002, a number very close to that of the previous year (183 victims), but slightly more than the previous 10-year average (173). Between 2001 and 2002, only two categories of family members accused of homicide decreased in number: there were six fewer women killed by their husbands (legally married or common-law) and nine fewer homicides of children killed by their mother. The eight mothers accused of killing their children was the lowest since 1965¹² (Table 9).

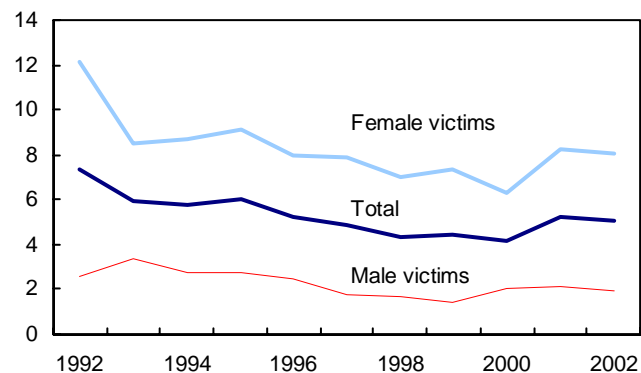
Spousal homicides represent one of every five solved cases

Spousal homicides include persons in legal marriages, those separated or divorced from such unions and those in common-law relationships (including same-sex spouses). The spousal homicide rate dropped very slightly in 2002 (-3%), following a 25% increase in 2001 (Figure 7). Spousal homicides account for one out of every five solved homicides and almost half (46%) of all family homicides (Table 9). The actual number of persons killed by a spouse (84 victims) in 2002 was similar to the previous 10-year average (82). In 2002, the number of spousal homicides was greater in two provinces than their respective 10-year averages. This was the case in Quebec, with eight more spousal homicides than average, and Alberta, with five more. Ontario had reported a marked increase in the number of spousal homicides in 2001 for a total of 37 homicides. In 2002, it recorded 25 such homicides, a figure lower than its previous 10-year average (28) (Table 10).

Figure 7



Rate per 1,000,000 spouses



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

Alberta reported the highest rate of spousal homicides among the provinces in 2002 (9.2 spousal homicides per 1,000,000 married persons), followed by Saskatchewan (7.8). These two provinces also reported the highest rates over the past decade.

Notwithstanding annual fluctuations, spousal homicide rates for both men and women generally declined between 1974 and 2000. Several societal changes have been suggested to explain the decline, including the changing nature of intimate relationships, increasing gender equality, criminal and civil legislative changes; policy and procedural changes (such as specialized domestic violence courts), training of criminal justice personnel and increasing availability of resources for victims of domestic violence.¹³

The methods used to commit spousal homicide differed between men and women. Out of the 16 spousal homicides perpetrated against men in 2002, 69% were stabbed, 13% were shot and 13% were suffocated or burned. Of the 68 female victims, 35% were stabbed, 31% were strangled, 21% were shot and 9% were beaten to death. Police reported a history of domestic violence in 60% of all spousal homicides. This was more frequently the case when the victim was male (75%) than when the victim was female (56%).

Homicides in other types of partner relationships (boyfriend or girlfriend, lovers, estranged lovers and same-sex relationships) increased slightly over the previous year. There were 16 homicides (9 female and 7 male victims) committed by a non-spousal partner in 2002, four more than in 2001, but fewer than the average number of victims for the previous 10-year period (22). Among all solved homicides, 44% of all female victims and 8% of all male victims in 2002 were killed by a person with whom they had had a relationship at one point in time, through either marriage or dating.

Nearly three quarters of murdered children killed by a parent

There were 44 children (under the age of 12) murdered in 2002, five more than in 2001, but still below the average number of victims for the previous 10-year period (50). Nearly three quarters of these children were killed by their parents—there were 25 parent-child homicide incidents involving 31 child victims (Table 11). Two children were killed by other family members or family friends, and two by a babysitter. One child was killed by a stranger. No accused person has yet been identified in the cases of eight other children.

Taking into account the fact that some of these incidents involve multiple-accused and multiple-victims, the actual number of accused parents in 2001 were 18 fathers (14 fathers and 4 step-fathers) and 7 mothers.

For the second year in a row, the number of infants under one year of age (13) who were homicide victims remained lower than the 10-year average of 18. However, compared to other

12. For more information on family related homicides, see K. Au Coin, Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, No. 85-224-XPE in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Ottawa 2003.
 13. V. Pottie-Bunge, National Trends in Intimate Partner Homicides, 1974-2000, Juristat. No. 85-002-XPE in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Ottawa, vol. 22, No. 5, 2002.

children under 12, infants under one year of age were still at the highest risk of being victims of homicide, with a rate of about four victims for every 100,000 infants. In 2002, parents were responsible for eight infant homicides (four mothers and four fathers). No accused persons have been identified in the cases of the other five infants.

It is important to note that the figure for infant homicides may be under-reported, since some claims of accidental deaths, such as falls or "sudden infant deaths," could be attributed to child abuse. Since 1995, most provinces have legislated mandatory coroner inquests into the deaths of children under two years of age. However, it is still possible that some cases would fail to be reported or classified by police as homicides.

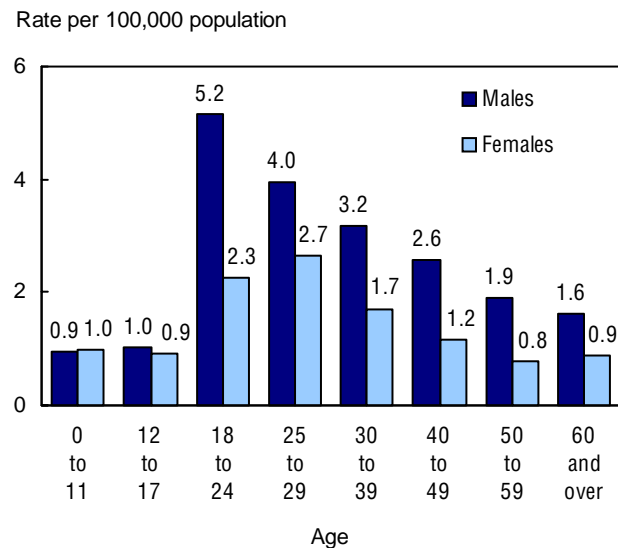
AGE AND SEX OF VICTIMS AND ACCUSED

Males account for a majority of victims and accused

As in the past, about two thirds (65%) of homicide victims were male in 2002. More than half (52%) of all victims were between 18 and 39 years of age. Male victimization rates peak at a younger age than those of female (Figure 8): 18-24 years of age for males and 25-29 for females. The risk of becoming a victim of homicide tends to decline with age for both genders after 30 years of age.

Figure 8

Victim homicide rates by age group and sex, 2002

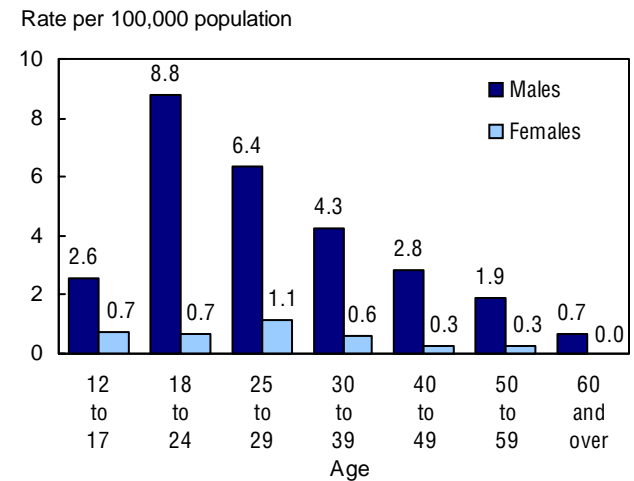


Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Males accounted for the vast majority of all those accused of homicide in 2002 (89%), consistent with the average for the previous 10 years. The age pattern for accused persons is very similar to the pattern described above for victims of homicide (Figure 9).

Figure 9

Accused homicide rates by age group and sex, 2002



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

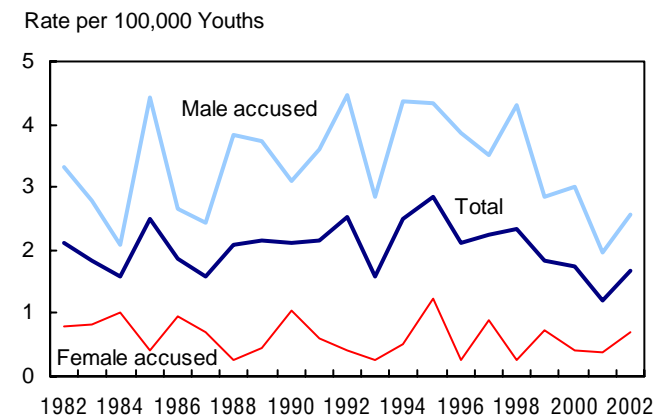
YOUTH HOMICIDE

Number of homicides committed by youths lower than historical average

In 2002, 42 youths (persons 12 to 17 years of age) were charged with homicide, the first increase after three consecutive annual declines. This number is lower than the past 10-year average of 50 youths accused of homicide each year (Table 12, Figure 10).

Figure 10

Youths (12-17 Years) Accused of Homicide, 1982-2002



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

Youths represented 8% of all those charged with homicide in 2002, a proportion similar to that of the previous decade (9%). Although most youth homicides were still committed by males, the proportion of females was higher for youth accused (21%) than for adult accused (10%).

As is the case historically, youths were more likely than adults to kill other youths. Among solved homicides in 2002, youths accused of homicide were responsible for killing 31 victims, 39% of whom were aged 12 to 24 years. Of the homicides committed by adults, 20% of the victims were from 12 to 24 years of age.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES ARE OVER-REPRESENTED IN HOMICIDES

It has been widely documented that Aboriginal people are over-represented in the justice system.¹⁴ This also appears to hold true for their involvement in homicide, as both accused and victims. In accordance with internal guidelines, various police services (such as the RCMP) no longer collect information on the Aboriginal status of accused or victims. In 2002, such information was only available for 41% of the victims and 38% of those accused. Nonetheless, on the basis of information from police services that do report this information, Aboriginals, who make up 3% of the Canadian population, accounted for 21% of those accused of homicide and 14% of homicide victims in 2002 (these proportions exclude data from police services not providing such information).

TWO THIRDS OF ACCUSED AND HALF OF ALL VICTIMS HAD PREVIOUS CRIMINAL RECORDS

In 2002, almost two thirds (62%) of persons aged 12 or older accused of homicide had a Canadian criminal record. Among those with a prior criminal history, three quarters (73%) had been previously convicted of a violent offence: 8 for homicide,¹⁵ 44 for robbery and 183 for other violent offences. Among the eight accused with a previous homicide conviction, five killed a friend or acquaintance and three killed a stranger. Similarly, half (50%) of all homicide victims 12 years and over in 2002 had a Canadian criminal record. Forty-seven percent of this group had been previously convicted of a violent crime: 6 for homicide, 23 for robbery and 97 for other violent offences.

PRECIPITATING FACTORS

Most victims and accused persons had consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the homicide

Alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants are known to play a role in the commission of many crimes including homicide.¹⁶ In incidents in which it was possible to determine that alcohol/drug consumption had been a factor in 2002, police reported that more than half (52%) of all homicide victims and two thirds (68%) of those accused had consumed alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the offence, similar to the pattern observed since 1991, when this information was first collected. As victims of

homicide, males were almost twice as likely as females to have consumed alcohol and/or drugs, whereas for accused persons, females were slightly more likely than males to have done so.

Half of homicide incidents motivated by anger or despair

As determined by police, the most common motive for committing homicide in 2002 was an argument, quarrel or incident inciting a vengeful or jealous reaction or an act of despair (54% of all homicide incidents). A further 18% were motivated by financial gain or the settling of accounts. There were seven "random" killings (victims randomly selected) in 2002, an increase from the past five-year average of three. Most of these "random" killings incidents were reported in Québec (4). There were three homicides motivated by hate in 2002. From 1992 to 2001, there were 14 homicide incidents that were motivated by hate.

One in eight of those accused reported to have a mental health problem

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on any suspected mental or developmental disorders (such as schizophrenia, manic depression or developmental delays) among accused persons. It is important to note that this information is not intended to be diagnostic, and should be interpreted with some caution since it is not necessarily based upon a doctor's assessment. This information reflects police perceptions as to the mental health condition of accused persons.

Excluding those cases in which mental status was unknown, police suspected the presence of a mental or developmental disorder among 13% of accused persons in 2002, similar to the percentage reported each year since 1997.

Over one third of all homicides occurred during commission of another offence

In 2002, more than one third (38%) of all homicide incidents occurred during the commission of another criminal offence. Of these 210 incidents, 169 (80%) were committed at the same time as another violent offence: 71 during an assault, 46 during a robbery, 21 during a sexual assault, 19 during other violent offences, 8 as the result of stalking¹⁷ and 4 during a kidnapping/abduction. Five other homicides occurred as a result of arson, 12 were committed during other property offences and 24 in conjunction with other types of criminal offences.

14. *Correctional Service of Canada, Demographic Overview of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada and Aboriginal Offenders in Federal Corrections, Aboriginal Initiatives Branch CSC, Correctional Service of Canada, Ottawa, 1999. Also see: Aboriginal people in Canada (Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics profile series), No. 85F0033MIE in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Ottawa, June 2001.*

15. *All of those accused were aged 18 or more in 2002.*

16. *R.N. Parker and K. Auerhahn, Drugs, alcohol and homicide: Issues in theory and research, Homicide: A Sourcebook of Social Research. Edited by M.D. Smith and M.A. Zahn, Thousand Oaks, Sage Publications, 1999, pp. 176-191.*

17. *For more information on criminal harassment, see K. Hackett, Criminal Harassment, Juristat, No. 85-002-XPE in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Ottawa, vol. 20, No. 11, 2000.*

AT RISK OCCUPATIONS

Some people are at a heightened risk of violence and homicide by their profession. The homicide survey collects information on victims' death associated with their profession. It should be noted that these victims were killed partly or entirely because of their profession. For example, if a prostitute is killed by her spouse during a dispute that is not related to the victim's work, her death is not reported in the homicide statistics associated with prostitution-related activities.

In 2002, 18 prostitute homicides were reported by the police.¹⁸ This figure was very high compared to the previous five years, where an average of three prostitutes were killed each year. Part of this increase is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002.

One police officer killed in the line of duty

Despite the obvious dangers inherent in police work, the number of police officers murdered in Canada in the line of duty is relatively low. Since 1961, there have been 118 police officers killed while on the job, an average of three police officers each year. In 2002, one police officer was the victim of homicide. By comparison, preliminary figures for 2002 from the United States, with a population about ten times greater than that of Canada, reported 56 police officers killed in the line of duty in 2002.¹⁹

METHODOLOGY


The Homicide Survey began collecting police-reported data on homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada in 1961. Until 1974, cases of manslaughter and infanticide were not included in the survey. Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire, which is then forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. This questionnaire remained virtually unmodified from 1961 to 1990. In 1991 and later in 1997, in an effort to respond to changing information needs, the survey was revised and expanded.

The total count of homicides for each year is equal to the total number of homicides *known* and *reported* by police departments during that year. Also, information (such as histories of domestic violence, alcohol/drug consumption) on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). It should be noted that this information is updated as the Centre receives it. Therefore, accused characteristics will be updated as homicide cases are solved and new information comes to light. In incidents where there are multiple accused persons, only the *closest* relationship between the victim and any of the accused is recorded.

18. For more information on this topic, see H. Johnson, *Sexual Offences*, Juristat, No. 85-002-XIE2003 in the catalogue of Statistics Canada, Ottawa, vol. 23, No. 6 (2003).

19. United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, press release, May 12, 2003.

Table 2



Homicides by Province/Territory

Province/Territory	2002 ¹		2001 ^{2r}		Average 1992-2001	
	Number of victims	Rate ³	Number of victims	Rate ³	Number of victims	Rate ³
Newfoundland & Labrador	2	0.38	1	0.19	5	0.86
Prince Edward Island	1	0.71	2	1.44	2	1.50
Nova Scotia	9	0.95	9	0.95	18	1.92
New Brunswick	9	1.19	8	1.06	10	1.33
Québec	118	1.58	140	1.89	144	1.97
Ontario	178	1.47	170	1.43	182	1.63
Manitoba	36	3.13	34	2.96	32	2.78
Saskatchewan	27	2.67	27	2.65	26	2.59
Alberta	70	2.25	70	2.29	64	2.25
British Columbia ⁴	126	3.04	84	2.05	109	2.84
Yukon	0	0.00	1	3.31	2	5.52
Northwest Territories ⁵	4	9.66	4	9.70	5	9.24
Nunavut ⁶	2	6.97	3	10.67	3	9.67
CANADA	582	1.85	553	1.78	596	2.01

^r revised

¹ A total of 32 homicides were reported and included in 2002 but occurred in previous years: 2 in Nova Scotia; 2 in Québec; 13 in Ontario; 15 in British Columbia.

² A total of 12 homicides were reported and included in 2001 but occurred in previous years: 3 in Québec; 7 in Ontario; 2 in Manitoba.

³ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

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

Estimate population used: 2001: Updated postcensal estimates

2002: Preliminary postcensal estimates


⁴ Part of this increase is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the homicide report.

⁵ Includes Nunavut before 1999.

⁶ Nunavut's average represents 1999-2001.

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

Table 3



Homicides by Census Metropolitan Area

Census Metropolitan Area	2002 ¹			2001 ^{2r}			Average 1992-2001 ³	
	Population ⁴	Number of victims	Rate ⁵	Population ⁴	Number of victims	Rate ⁵	Number of victims	Rate ⁵
500,000+ population								
Toronto	4,987,556	90	1.80	4,864,286	78	1.60	78	1.74
Montréal	3,524,313	66	1.87	3,491,167	78	2.23	80	2.37
Vancouver ⁶	2,118,504	69	3.26	2,082,039	43	2.07	53	2.78
Calgary	988,873	15	1.52	966,654	15	1.55	17	1.90
Edmonton	968,950	27	2.79	956,379	25	2.61	24	2.62
Ottawa ⁷	862,835	8	0.93	847,526	3	0.35	11	1.37
Québec	679,889	3	0.44	684,058	5	0.73	10	1.46
Winnipeg	674,188	23	3.41	673,218	19	2.82	18	2.70
Hamilton	659,539	13	1.97	653,986	13	1.99	12	1.80
Total	15,464,647	314	2.03	15,219,313	279	1.83	302	2.08
250,000 - 499,999 population								
Kitchener	463,222	3	0.65	456,218	6	1.32	5	1.08
St. Catharines-Niagara	426,450	8	1.88	425,688	5	1.17	6	1.14
London	381,508	4	1.05	380,190	6	1.58	5	1.28
Halifax	374,624	5	1.33	370,641	3	0.81	8	2.22
Windsor	324,519	7	2.16	319,477	3	0.94	7	2.21
Victoria	321,064	3	0.93	318,723	4	1.26	7	2.11
Oshawa	310,027	0	0.00	304,592	1	0.33	3	1.07
Gatineau ⁸	271,197	6	2.21	266,347	2	0.75	3	1.34
Total	2,872,611	36	1.25	2,841,876	30	1.06	42	1.56
100,000 - 249,999 population								
Saskatoon	234,267	8	3.41	233,798	1	0.43	6	2.53
Regina	200,417	4	2.00	201,554	7	3.47	5	2.56
St. John's	176,619	1	0.57	175,530	1	0.57	2	1.30
Sudbury	159,316	2	1.26	160,401	5	3.12	4	2.13
Saguenay	150,447	1	0.66	143,610	1	0.70	1	0.75
Sherbrooke	146,501	1	0.68	145,252	0	0.00	2	1.21
Saint John	146,140	2	1.37	146,369	1	0.68	2	1.57
Trois-Rivières	145,447	2	1.38	145,597	1	0.69	2	1.26
Thunder Bay	126,239	1	0.79	127,128	3	2.36	4	2.87
Total	1,485,393	22	1.48	1,479,239	20	1.35	29	1.80
CMA TOTALS	19,822,651	372	1.88	19,540,428	329	1.68	372	2.00
< 100,000 population	11,591,339	210	1.81	11,570,137	224	1.94	224	1.99
CANADA	31,413,990	582	1.85	31,110,565	553	1.78	596	2.00

^r revised

¹ A total of 32 homicides were reported and included in 2002 but occurred in previous years: 1 in Halifax; 2 in Montréal; 5 in Toronto; 1 in Hamilton; 1 in London; 2 in Windsor; 15 in Vancouver; 5 in Areas < 100,000.

² A total of 12 homicides were reported and included in 2001 but occurred in previous years: 1 in Québec; 1 in Trois-Rivières; 1 in Toronto; 2 in Hamilton; 1 in Winnipeg; 6 in Areas < 100,000.

³ The CMA boundaries change at each census as the population increases and the commuting patterns expand from the urban core. Data presented in this CMA table represent more than one census period. Data from 1991 to 1995 are based on 1991 census boundaries. Data from 1996 to the most current year are based on 1996 census boundaries.

⁴ Population estimates at July 1st, provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations for all CMAs have been adjusted to better reflect police boundaries, with the exception of the Oshawa CMA.

Estimate population used: 2001: Updated postcensal estimates
2002: Preliminary postcensal estimates

⁵ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

⁶ Part the increase seen in 2002 is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the report.

⁷ Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

⁸ Gatineau refers to the Québec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

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

Table 4



Homicide Rates Within the Jurisdiction of the 30 Largest Police Services, 2002

Police Service	2002			2001		
	Population ²	Number of victims	Rate ³	Population ²	Number of victims	Rate ³
Toronto CMA Police Services¹						
Toronto Police	2,614,956	65	2.49	2,582,781	59	2.28
Peel Regional Police	1,044,337	9	0.86	1,004,961	10	1.00
York Regional Police	818,013	12	1.47	777,536	4	0.51
Durham Regional Police	530,341	1	0.19	521,602	4	0.77
Halton Regional Police	394,238	1	0.25	386,634	1	0.26
Montréal CMA Police Services¹						
Montréal Police	1,853,489	48	2.59	1,840,093	66	3.59
Longueuil Police	382,401	6	1.57	381,955	0	0.00
Laval Police	359,627	2	0.56	355,770	3	0.84
Vancouver CMA Police Services¹						
Vancouver Police	580,094	13	2.24	573,154	16	2.79
Surrey (RCMP) Police	349,044	10	2.86	344,620	12	3.48
Burnaby (RCMP) Police	195,383	10	5.12	193,644	2	1.03
Richmond (RCMP) Police	168,254	5	2.97	166,809	4	2.40
Other Large Police Services						
Calgary Police	915,453	15	1.64	896,713	14	1.56
Ottawa Police	817,375	8	0.98	802,812	3	0.37
Edmonton Police	666,739	24	3.60	662,021	21	3.17
Winnipeg Police	631,620	22	3.48	631,101	19	3.01
Québec Police	516,740	2	0.39	545,689	2	0.37
Hamilton Regional Police	505,941	11	2.17	502,473	11	2.19
Waterloo Regional Police	463,222	3	0.65	456,218	6	1.32
Niagara Regional Police	426,450	8	1.88	425,688	5	1.17
London Police	346,372	3	0.87	345,226	6	1.74
Gatineau-Métro Police	219,717	4	1.82	216,599	0	0.00
Windsor Police	214,348	7	3.27	212,600	2	0.94
Saskatoon Police	206,922	6	2.90	206,396	1	0.48
Halifax Regional Police	200,928	3	1.49	200,480	2	1.00
Regina Police	184,661	4	2.17	185,855	7	3.77
St. John's (RNC) Police	176,619	1	0.57	175,530	1	0.57
Greater Sudbury Police	159,316	2	1.26	160,401	5	3.12
Saguenay Police	150,447	1	0.66	143,610	1	0.70
Sherbrooke Regional Police	146,501	1	0.68	145,252	0	0.00


¹ The Police Services listed under the Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver CMA's do not represent all the police service in each CMA. In some cases, only portions of a police services are included in the CMA.

² Police Service population estimates were derived from 2002 preliminary postcensal population estimates (1996 Census boundaries), Demography Division, Statistics Canada.
2001: Updated postcensal estimates
2002: Preliminary postcensal estimates

³ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

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

Table 5



Gang-related Homicides, Canada, 1992-2002


Year	Gang-related incidents			Total number of incidents	Total number of victims	Gang-related incidents as a % of all homicide incidents
	Drug-related	Settling of accounts	Other motives ¹			
	number					
1992	9	6	4	19	19	2.8
1993	8	2	2	12	13	2.0
1994	15	6	2	23	24	4.1
1995	8	2	9	19	21	3.4
1996	21	3	2	26	29	4.5
1997 ^r	8	5	14	27	28	5.0
1998 ^r	18	15	15	48	51	9.1
1999 ^r	19	12	13	44	45	8.7
2000 ^r	34	20	11	65	72	12.6
2001 ^r	23	15	21	59	61	11.5
2002	13	13	17	43	45	7.7
Average 1992-1997	12	4	6	21	22	3.7
Average 1998-2002	21	15	15	52	55	9.9

^r revised

¹ Other motives includes: revenge, jealousy, argument, quarrel, frustration, anger, financial gain, protection of assets, hate crime, fear of apprehension, other motive and unknown motive.

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

Table 6




Victims of gang-related homicide by region, 1992-2002

Region	Year										
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ^r	2002
	number										
Atlantic	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	4	0	0
Québec	10	8	13	13	13	17	31	30	38	23	6
Ontario	3	3	4	0	3	1	6	5	11	19	19
Prairies	0	1	2	4	6	3	6	5	9	9	13
British Columbia	6	1	4	4	6	6	7	5	10	10	7
Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CANADA	19	13	24	21	29	28	51	45	72	61	45

^r revised

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

Table 7



Homicides by Cause of Death, Canada, 1992-2002

Year	Shooting		Stabbing		Beating		Strangulation/ Suffocation		Shaken Baby Syndrome ¹		Fire (smoke inhalation, burns)	
	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent
1992	247	33.7	211	28.8	151	20.6	61	8.3	...	...	35	4.8
1993	195	31.1	191	30.5	116	18.5	77	12.3	...	...	17	2.7
1994	196	32.9	154	25.8	106	17.8	84	14.1	...	...	17	2.9
1995	176	29.9	183	31.1	121	20.6	70	11.9	...	...	20	3.4
1996	212	33.4	195	30.7	132	20.8	59	9.3	...	...	8	1.3
1997	193	32.9	168	28.7	115	19.6	53	9.0	6	1.0	30	5.1
1998	151	27.1	186	33.3	125	22.4	61	10.9	6	1.1	12	2.2
1999	165	30.7	143	26.6	125	23.2	55	10.2	7	1.3	11	2.0
2000	184	33.7	149	27.3	128	23.4	39	7.1	13	2.4	4	0.7
2001 ^r	171	30.9	171	30.9	122	22.1	47	8.5	8	1.4	8	1.4
2002	149	25.6	182	31.3	124	21.3	64	11.0	8	1.4	8	1.4

Year	Poisoning		Injuries cause by a vehicle ¹		Other ²		Unknown		Total	
	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent
1992	9	1.2	...	...	12	1.6	6	0.8	732	100
1993	6	1.0	...	...	21	3.3	4	0.6	627	100
1994	11	1.8	...	...	22	3.7	6	1.0	596	100
1995	6	1.0	...	...	6	1.0	6	1.0	588	100
1996	6	0.9	...	...	12	1.9	11	1.7	635	100
1997	8	1.4	6	1.0	2	0.3	5	0.9	586	100
1998	6	1.1	3	0.5	2	0.4	6	1.1	558	100
1999	5	0.9	13	2.4	6	1.1	8	1.5	538	100
2000	4	0.7	14	2.6	4	0.7	7	1.3	546	100
2001 ^r	8	1.4	5	0.9	5	0.9	8	1.4	553	100
2002	3	0.5	6	1.0	9	1.5	29	5.0	582	100

... figures not applicable or not appropriate


^r revised

¹ Data available since 1997.

² Other includes heart attacks, exposure / hypothermia and, prior to 1997, Shaken Baby Syndrome and deaths caused by vehicles.

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

Table 8




Homicides involving Firearms, Canada, 1992-2002

Year	Handgun		Rifle/Shotgun		Fully automatic firearm		Sawed-off rifle/ shotgun		Other firearms		Total	
	Number of victims	% of firearm homicides	Number of victims	% of firearm homicides	Number of victims	% of firearm homicides	Number of victims	% of firearm homicides	Number of victims	% of firearm homicides	Number of victims	Homicides involving firearms as a % of total homicides
1992	129	52.2	91	36.8	12	4.9	15	6.1	0	0.0	247	33.7
1993	91	46.7	75	38.5	11	5.6	17	8.7	1	0.5	195	31.1
1994	90	45.9	66	33.7	14	7.1	26	13.3	0	0.0	196	32.9
1995	95	54.0	64	36.4	2	1.1	15	8.5	0	0.0	176	29.9
1996	107	50.5	81	38.2	8	3.8	16	7.5	0	0.0	212	33.4
1997	99	51.3	77	39.9	2	1.0	10	5.2	5	2.6	193	32.9
1998	70	46.4	51	33.8	12	7.9	14	9.3	4	2.6	151	27.1
1999	89	53.9	58	35.2	6	3.6	6	3.6	6	3.6	165	30.7
2000	108	58.7	57	31.0	4	2.2	11	6.0	4	2.2	184	33.7
2001	110	64.3	46	26.9	3	1.8	7	4.1	5	2.9	171	30.9
2002	98	65.8	37	24.8	3	2.0	6	4.0	5	3.4	149	25.6
Average 1992-2001	99	52.4	67	35.0	7	3.9	14	7.2	3	1.4	189	31.6

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

Table 9



Solved Homicides by Accused-Victim Relationship¹, Canada

Relationship Type (Victims killed by:)	2002		2001 ^r		Average 1992-2001	
	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent
Family Relationship						
<i>Spousal Relationship</i>						
Husband (legal and common-law)	46	10.2	52	12.0	48	10.0
Husband (separated and divorced)	21	4.6	17	3.9	17	3.6
Wife (legal and common-law)	14	3.1	13	3.0	15	3.2
Wife (separated and divorced)	2	0.4	3	0.7	2	0.4
(Ex) Same sex spouse ²	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2
Total Spousal	84	18.6	86	19.8	82	17.2
<i>Non-Spousal Relationship</i>						
Father	28	6.2	26	6.0	27	5.7
Mother	8	1.8	17	3.9	16	3.4
Child	26	5.8	25	5.7	19	4.0
Sibling	11	2.4	8	1.8	9	2.0
Other family relation ³	25	5.5	21	4.8	19	4.0
Total Non-Spousal	98	21.7	97	22.3	91	19.1
Total Family	182	40.3	183	42.1	173	36.3
<i>Acquaintance</i>						
(Ex) Boyfriend/girlfriend/other intimate	16	3.5	12	2.8	22	4.6
Close friend	29	6.4	28	6.4	30	6.3
Neighbour	6	1.3	24	5.5	21	4.4
Casual acquaintance	100	22.1	90	20.7	105	22.0
Business associate (legal)	10	2.2	12	2.8	13	2.8
Criminal relationships ⁴	37	8.2	28	6.4	36	7.6
Authority figure ²	2	0.4	1	0.2	3	0.7
Total Acquaintance	200	44.2	195	44.8	229	48.1
Stranger	69	15.3	54	12.4	69	14.5
Unknown relationship	1	0.2	3	0.7	4	0.9
TOTAL SOLVED HOMICIDES	452	100.0	435	100.0	476	100.0
Unsolved homicides	130	...	118	...	120	...
TOTAL HOMICIDES	582	...	553	...	596	...

... figures not appropriate or not applicable

^r revised

¹ Includes only those homicides in which there were known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.


² Authority figure and same sex spouse were added to the survey in 1997; therefore, ten-year average cannot be calculated. The average is calculated on 5 years, 1997 to 2001.

³ Other family includes: nieces, nephews, grandchildren, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, fathers-in-law, mothers-in-law, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc., related by blood or by common-law.

⁴ Criminal relationships include prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients.

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

Table 10



Victims of Spousal Homicide by Region

Region	2002		2001 ^r		Average 1992-2001	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
Atlantic	1	0.8	4	3.1	6	4.6
Québec	24	6.2	16	4.2	17	4.4
Ontario	25	3.9	37	5.9	28	4.8
Manitoba	2	3.4	2	3.4	3	5.9
Saskatchewan	4	7.8	3	5.8	4	8.0
Alberta	15	9.2	11	6.9	10	6.9
British Columbia	13	5.8	11	4.9	13	6.1
Territoires ²	0	...	2	...	1	...
Canada	84	5.1	86	5.2	82	5.3

^r revised

¹ Rates are calculated per 1,000,000 married persons (married includes legal, common-law and separated), 15+ years.


² Rates are not calculated for the territories due to small populations.

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

2001: Updated postcensal 2002: Preliminary postcensal

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

Table 11




Children (<12 years) Killed by Parents, Canada, 1992-2002

Year	Number of incidents	Number of victims	Parent-child homicides as a % of all homicide incidents	Number of Accused in Parent-Child Homicides			
				Father	Step-Father	Mother	Step-Mother
1992	28	32	4.2	10	1	17	0
1993 ^r	31	32	5.2	13	4	14	0
1994	40	43	7.2	20	4	16	0
1995	32	36	5.7	18	2	11	1
1996	37	41	6.4	19	6	12	0
1997 ^r	44	53	8.2	18	3	22	1
1998	41	47	7.7	22	3	15	1
1999	23	26	4.6	13	3	7	0
2000	24	27	4.7	11	4	9	0
2001 ^r	25	30	4.9	12	2	10	1
2002	25	31	4.5	14	4	7	0
Average 1992-2001	33	37	5.9	16	3	13	0

^r revised

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

Table 12



Youths (12-17 years) Accused of Homicide, Canada, 1992-2002

Year	Number			Rate per 100,000 youth population ¹			Total youth as % of total accused
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1992 ^r	53	5	58	4.47	0.45	2.52	8.7
1993	34	3	37	2.84	0.26	1.59	6.7
1994	53	6	59	4.37	0.52	2.50	10.2
1995	53	15	68	4.32	1.29	2.85	11.8
1996	48	3	51	3.87	0.26	2.11	9.2
1997	44	11	55	3.51	0.93	2.25	10.7
1998	54	3	57	4.29	0.25	2.33	10.8
1999	36	9	45	2.86	0.75	1.84	9.3
2000	38	5	43	3.02	0.42	1.75	9.1
2001 ^r	25	5	30	1.97	0.42	1.21	6.1
2002	33	9	42	2.57	0.74	1.68	8.0
Average 1992-2001	44	7	50	3.55	0.56	2.09	9.3

^r revised


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

Estimate population used: 1992-1995: Final intercensal estimates 1996-1999: Final postcensal estimates

2000-2001: Updated postcensal estimates 2002: Preliminary postcensal estimates

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

Table 13



Number of Homicides, by Province/Territory, 1961-2002

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ¹	Yukon	N.W.T. ²	Nvt.	Canada ¹
1961	1	1	5	2	42	75	10	10	14	24	1	0	...	233
1962	0	0	8	5	44	69	13	12	15	48	3	0	...	265
1963	3	0	3	5	57	72	11	7	25	28	3	1	...	249
1964	4	0	11	5	46	66	16	17	18	31	1	3	...	253
1965	5	4	10	5	58	66	10	12	16	52	3	2	...	277
1966	2	1	8	6	50	57	17	12	24	45	0	0	...	250
1967	0	0	8	4	63	97	12	19	33	38	6	2	...	338
1968	4	0	9	3	83	88	25	21	22	59	1	0	...	375
1969	4	1	12	1	117	94	26	29	16	46	0	1	...	391
1970	1	1	14	8	135	109	26	22	37	68	5	7	...	467
1971	2	0	15	9	116	133	28	28	40	53	0	2	...	473
1972	2	1	14	9	150	132	35	27	29	78	2	2	...	521
1973	3	0	15	13	134	145	36	19	30	78	3	4	...	546
1974	3	2	8	21	169	160	42	31	44	107	5	8	...	600
1975	4	0	14	12	226	206	37	36	57	98	6	5	...	701
1976	6	2	25	14	205	183	31	34	68	88	4	8	...	668
1977	8	1	14	38	197	192	44	46	70	91	6	4	...	711
1978	9	4	13	27	180	182	39	32	84	85	2	4	...	661
1979	5	0	17	11	186	175	44	36	56	90	4	7	...	631
1980	3	1	12	9	181	158	31	31	55	105	2	4	...	592
1981	4	1	11	17	186	170	41	29	73	110	1	5	...	648
1982	6	0	12	13	190	184	35	39	70	109	2	7	...	667
1983	6	0	13	11	190	202	40	33	75	108	1	3	...	682
1984	6	0	15	14	198	190	43	30	54	110	2	5	...	667
1985 ³	5	1	26	14	219	193	26	28	63	113	6	10	...	704
1986	4	0	15	12	156	139	47	26	64	89	3	14	...	569
1987	5	0	14	20	174	204	44	30	73	78	0	2	...	644
1988	7	1	11	8	154	186	31	23	66	80	1	8	...	576
1989	5	1	16	18	215	175	43	22	67	86	2	7	...	657
1990	0	1	9	12	184	182	39	36	74	110	1	12	...	660
1991	10	2	21	17	181	245	42	21	84	128	0	3	...	754
1992	2	0	21	11	166	242	29	32	92	122	2	13	...	732
1993	7	2	19	11	159	192	31	30	49	120	0	7	...	627
1994	4	1	19	15	126	192	29	24	66	113	3	4	...	596
1995	5	1	17	14	135	181	27	21	60	120	4	3	...	588
1996	7	1	18	9	154	187	45	32	53	125	0	4	...	635
1997	7	0	24	8	132	178	31	25	61	116	1	3	...	586
1998	7	1	24	5	137	156	33	33	64	90	3	5	...	558
1999	2	1	13	9	137	162	26	13	61	110	1	1	2	538
2000	6	3	15	10	150	156	30	26	59	85	2	1	3	546
2001 ^f	1	2	9	8	140	170	34	27	70	84	1	4	3	553
2002	2	1	9	9	118	178	36	27	70	126	0	4	2	582

... figures not appropriate or not applicable

^f revised


¹ Part of the increase seen in 2002 is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the homicide report.

² Includes Nunavut before 1999.

³ Excludes 329 victims killed in the Air India incident.

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

Table 14



Homicide Victim Rates¹, by Province/Territory, 1961-2002²

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ³	Yukon	N.W.T. ⁴	Nvt.	Canada ³
1961	0.22	0.96	0.68	0.33	0.80	1.20	1.08	1.08	1.05	1.47	6.84	0.00	...	1.28
1962	0.00	0.00	1.07	0.83	0.82	1.09	1.39	1.29	1.10	2.89	19.99	0.00	...	1.43
1963	0.63	0.00	0.40	0.82	1.04	1.11	1.16	0.75	1.78	1.65	20.01	3.89	...	1.32
1964	0.83	0.00	1.46	0.82	0.82	1.00	1.67	1.81	1.26	1.78	6.69	11.18	...	1.31
1965	1.03	3.69	1.32	0.81	1.02	0.97	1.04	1.26	1.10	2.89	20.57	7.29	...	1.41
1966	0.41	0.92	1.06	0.97	0.86	0.82	1.77	1.26	1.64	2.40	0.00	0.00	...	1.25
1967	0.00	0.00	1.05	0.65	1.07	1.36	1.25	1.99	2.21	1.95	39.97	6.89	...	1.66
1968	0.79	0.00	1.17	0.48	1.40	1.21	2.57	2.19	1.44	2.95	6.65	0.00	...	1.81
1969	0.78	0.90	1.55	0.16	1.95	1.27	2.66	3.03	1.03	2.23	0.00	3.22	...	1.86
1970	0.19	0.91	1.79	1.28	2.25	1.44	2.64	2.34	2.32	3.20	29.38	21.21	...	2.19
1971	0.38	0.00	1.88	1.40	1.89	1.69	2.80	3.00	2.40	2.37	0.00	5.49	...	2.15
1972	0.37	0.88	1.75	1.39	2.43	1.66	3.49	2.93	1.71	3.39	9.93	5.16	...	2.34
1973	0.55	0.00	1.85	1.98	2.16	1.80	3.57	2.08	1.74	3.29	14.19	9.82	...	2.43
1974	0.55	1.72	0.98	3.16	2.70	1.95	4.12	3.41	2.51	4.38	23.73	19.45	...	2.63
1975	0.72	0.00	1.69	1.77	3.57	2.48	3.61	3.92	3.15	3.92	27.39	11.67	...	3.03
1976	1.07	1.69	2.99	2.03	3.20	2.17	3.00	3.65	3.64	3.47	17.80	18.05	...	2.85
1977	1.42	0.83	1.67	5.46	3.06	2.26	4.24	4.87	3.59	3.54	26.27	8.96	...	3.00
1978	1.59	3.29	1.54	3.86	2.79	2.12	3.75	3.36	4.15	3.25	8.42	8.84	...	2.76
1979	0.88	0.00	2.00	1.56	2.88	2.02	4.24	3.75	2.67	3.38	16.67	15.31	...	2.61
1980	0.52	0.81	1.41	1.27	2.78	1.81	3.00	3.20	2.51	3.83	8.22	8.64	...	2.41
1981	0.70	0.81	1.29	2.41	2.84	1.93	3.96	2.97	3.18	3.90	4.18	10.51	...	2.61
1982	1.04	0.00	1.40	1.84	2.89	2.06	3.34	3.95	2.96	3.79	8.17	14.14	...	2.66
1983	1.04	0.00	1.50	1.54	2.88	2.23	3.77	3.29	3.14	3.72	4.23	5.88	...	2.69
1984	1.03	0.00	1.71	1.94	2.99	2.07	4.01	2.95	2.26	3.73	8.36	9.51	...	2.60
1985 ⁵	0.86	0.78	2.94	1.93	3.29	2.08	2.40	2.73	2.62	3.80	24.63	18.38	...	2.72
1986	0.69	0.00	1.69	1.65	2.33	1.47	4.31	2.53	2.63	2.96	12.26	25.60	...	2.18
1987	0.87	0.00	1.57	2.75	2.57	2.12	4.01	2.90	3.00	2.56	0.00	3.63	...	2.43
1988	1.22	0.77	1.23	1.10	2.25	1.89	2.81	2.24	2.69	2.57	3.76	14.36	...	2.15
1989	0.87	0.77	1.77	2.45	3.10	1.73	3.90	2.16	2.68	2.69	7.37	12.28	...	2.41
1990	0.00	0.77	0.99	1.62	2.63	1.77	3.53	3.57	2.90	3.34	3.60	20.37	...	2.38
1991	1.73	1.53	2.29	2.28	2.56	2.35	3.79	2.09	3.24	3.79	0.00	4.92	...	2.69
1992	0.34	0.00	2.28	1.47	2.33	2.29	2.61	3.19	3.49	3.52	6.61	20.83	...	2.58
1993	1.21	1.51	2.06	1.47	2.22	1.80	2.77	2.98	1.83	3.36	0.00	11.02	...	2.18
1994	0.70	0.75	2.05	2.00	1.75	1.77	2.58	2.38	2.44	3.07	9.98	6.14	...	2.05
1995	0.88	0.74	1.83	1.86	1.86	1.65	2.39	2.07	2.19	3.17	12.95	4.51	...	2.00
1996	1.25	0.73	1.93	1.20	2.12	1.68	3.97	3.14	1.91	3.22	0.00	5.92	...	2.14
1997	1.26	0.00	2.57	1.06	1.81	1.58	2.73	2.45	2.15	2.93	3.10	4.43	...	1.95
1998	1.28	0.73	2.56	0.66	1.87	1.37	2.90	3.22	2.20	2.25	9.52	7.40	...	1.84
1999	0.37	0.73	1.38	1.19	1.86	1.41	2.28	1.27	2.06	2.73	3.22	2.44	7.45	1.76
2000	1.12	2.17	1.59	1.32	2.03	1.33	2.62	2.54	1.96	2.09	6.54	2.45	10.91	1.77
2001 ^f	0.19	1.44	0.95	1.06	1.89	1.43	2.96	2.65	2.29	2.05	3.31	9.70	10.67	1.78
2002	0.38	0.71	0.95	1.19	1.58	1.47	3.13	2.67	2.25	3.04	0.00	9.66	6.97	1.85

... figures not appropriate or not applicable.

^f revised

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

Estimates of population used: 1961-1970: Final intercensal estimates
 1971-1990: Revised Intercensal
 1991-1995: Final intercensal estimates
 1996-1999: Final postcensal estimates
 2000-2001: Updated postcensal estimates
 2002: Preliminary postcensal estimates

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

³ Part of the increase seen in 2002 is a result of 15 homicides which occurred in Port Coquitlam in previous years being reported by police in 2002. Homicide counts reflect the year in which police file the homicide report.

⁴ Includes Nunavut until 1999.

⁵ Excludes 329 victims killed in the Air India incident.

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

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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