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Juristat

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 25, no. 6



Homicide in Canada, 2004

by Mia Dauvergne, Homicide Survey manager

Highlights

- After reaching its lowest point in more than three decades in 2003, the 2004 national homicide rate jumped 12% to 1.95 victims per 100,000 population.
- Canadian police services reported 622 homicides in 2004, 73 more than the previous year. The most substantial increases in the number of homicides occurred in Alberta (+22), British Columbia (+18) and Quebec (+12).
- The rate in Manitoba (4.27) rose by 15%, resulting in the highest rate among the provinces, followed by Saskatchewan (3.92). The lowest rates were in the four Atlantic provinces.
- Increases were reported in most of Canada's largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs), notably Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver, Calgary and Montréal. Winnipeg (4.89) recorded the highest rate among the nine largest CMAs and Regina recorded the highest homicide rate among all CMAs (4.98).
- As in previous years, most homicides reported in 2004 were committed by someone known to the victim. Among solved homicides, 50% were committed by an acquaintance, 35% by a family member and 15% by a stranger.
- There were 74 spousal homicides reported in 2004, 4 fewer than in 2003, resulting in the third consecutive annual decline in the spousal homicide rate. The 2004 spousal homicide rate against women was five times higher than the rate for men. Homicides committed by other intimate partners (such as boyfriends or girlfriends) doubled from 11 in 2003 to 22 in 2004.
- Stabbings accounted for one-third of all killings, the most common method used in 2004. There were 205 stabbings, 63 more than in 2003 and the highest number in more than a decade. Firearms were used in a little more than one-quarter of all homicides, similar to the proportion seen in previous years.
- Police reported 18 homicides against prostitutes in 2004, 11 of whom were killed as a direct result of their profession. In addition, there were 100 homicides against those involved in other illegal "occupations" (such as gang members, drug dealers or traffickers), 81 of whom were killed as a result of their activities.
- In 2004, two-thirds of adult accused and just over one-half of youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide had a criminal record in Canada. Half of all adult victims and close to one-quarter of youth victims also had a criminal record.
- The total number of youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide fell from 57 in 2003 to 40 in 2004. The rate of youth accused was at its second lowest point in more than 30 years.
- Two-thirds of homicide victims in 2004 were male, similar to the proportion reported in previous years. Males also accounted for 90% of accused persons, with the highest rate occurring among males aged 18 to 24 years.
- As in previous years, most homicides occurred when the victim (55%) or the accused (73%) had consumed alcohol and/or drugs.



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Introduction

There are four types of *Criminal Code* offences that are associated with homicide: first-degree murder, second-degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide.¹ As part of the Homicide Survey,² the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) collects detailed police-reported information on all homicides that occur in Canada.

Homicide is regarded as a distinct form of crime for several reasons. First, it is considered to be the most serious of all criminal acts. Second, homicide is more likely than most other crimes to be discovered by police and to be the subject of thorough investigation. Third, unlike other crimes, the definition of homicide tends to be fairly consistent across nations. Thus, homicide is important to examine, not only because of its severity, but because it is a fairly reliable barometer of violence in society.

This *Juristat* examines homicide trends at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels. Information describing the characteristics associated with the methods used to commit homicide (including the use of firearms), accused-victim relationships (such as spousal or other family-related homicides), gang-related homicides, victims' involvement in illegal activities, the use of alcohol and drugs and youth homicides is also presented. This report also presents a detailed profile of all 2004 homicides in Canada according to the relationship, motivation and location of each incident.

General trends

Homicide rate jumps in 2004

Canadian police services reported a total of 622 homicides in 2004 (73 more than the previous year) (Table 1). The national homicide rate of 1.95 victims per 100,000 population jumped by 12%, after reaching its lowest point in more than 30 years in 2003 (Table 2).

The majority of the increase in the number of homicides took place in Canada's major census metropolitan areas (CMAs):³ Winnipeg (+16), Edmonton (+12), Vancouver (+11), Calgary (+9) and Montréal (+7).

Despite the increase, homicides continue to represent a small proportion of all crime known to police (0.2%). Compared to other types of violence, homicides are relatively rare – in 2004, there were 717 attempted murders (up slightly from 707 in 2003), about 23,000 sexual assaults and over 230,000 other assaults.⁴

Homicides account for a comparatively small proportion of deaths in Canada. In 2002 (the latest year for which figures are available), more than 65,000 people died from

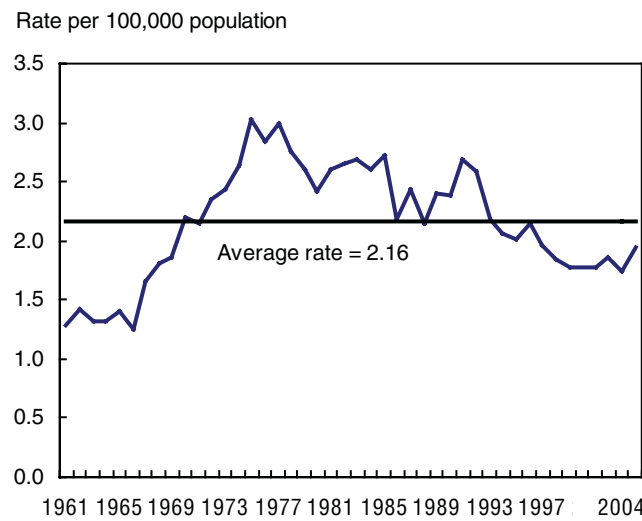
1. For definitions of homicide charges, see the Glossary of Terms section at the end of this report. The classification of homicide incidents in this report is based upon initial police investigation. In the transition period from initial police investigation to final court disposition, the legal classification of an incident may change; however, this change may not be reflected in this report.
2. For more information on the Homicide Survey, see the Methodology section at the end of this report.
3. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. In this report, the CMA boundaries have been adjusted slightly in order to more accurately reflect policing boundaries. The areas that police services serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these services difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police service is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a single CMA.
4. Sauvé, J. (2005). "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2004". *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-XPE. Vol. 25, No. 5. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

cancer and more than 50,000 people died from heart disease. Nearly 3,700 people committed suicide and about 3,000 people were killed in motor vehicle accidents.⁵

Since 1961, when national homicide statistics were first collected, there have been two distinct trends. Following a period of stability between 1961 and 1966, the homicide rate more than doubled over the next ten years, reaching a peak of 3.03 homicide victims (per 100,000 population) in 1975. Since 1975, despite annual fluctuations, the rate has gradually declined (Figure 1).

Figure 1

 **Homicide rate, Canada, 1961-2004**



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

Canada's homicide rate similar to Finland

Canada's 2004 homicide rate was close to that of Finland (Text table)⁶. As in previous years, the rate in Canada was about three times lower than the rate in the United States,⁷ but higher than the rates in many other countries such as France, Scotland, Australia and Japan.

Geographical patterns

Homicide rates highest in the west

Historically, homicide rates have generally been lower in the eastern provinces than those in the west (Table 2). The 2004 provincial distribution of homicides mirrored this pattern observed in previous years.

Text table

 **Homicide rates for selected countries, 2003**

Country	Rate per 100,000 population
South Africa	44.10
Russia	19.82
United States ¹	5.70
Turkey	5.57
Hungary	2.22
Armenia	2.00
Finland	1.98
Canada²	1.95
Poland ²	1.70
France	1.65
England & Wales ³	1.62
Northern Ireland	1.53
Australia	1.51
Denmark	1.21
Greece	1.12
Spain	1.10
Germany	0.99
Switzerland	0.99
Scotland	0.64
Japan	0.51

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). "Crime in the United States – 2003". U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C.
2. Figures reflect 2004 data.
3. Based upon 2003/2004 fiscal year data from Research Development & Statistics (CRCSG) Home Office. "Crime Statistics for England and Wales, 2003-2004". London, England.

Source: National Central Bureau – Interpol Ottawa.

The four Atlantic provinces recorded the lowest rates in Canada (Figure 2). There were no homicides in Prince Edward Island and the rates in the other three provinces were well below the national average. The rates in Quebec and Ontario were similar and also below the national average.

As has been the case historically, the four western provinces reported homicide rates that were above the national average. The rate in Manitoba (4.27) increased by 15% from 2003, resulting in the highest rate among the provinces and its second highest rate since 1961. Saskatchewan (3.92), although reporting a slight decline in 2004, recorded the second highest rate among the provinces.

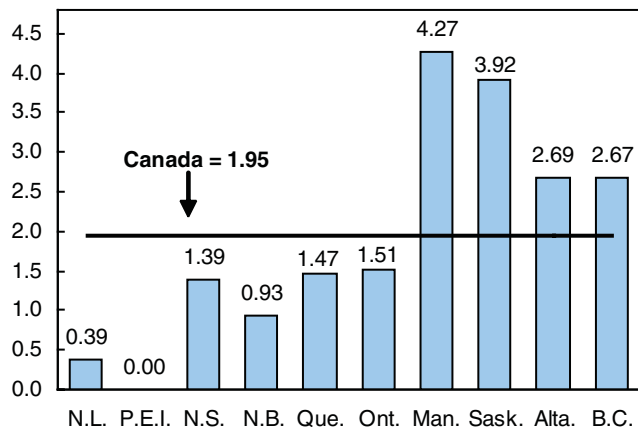
The rates in Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut tend to be higher than the provinces, although the actual number of homicides is consistently low. Moreover, because of their relatively small populations, minor changes in the number of homicides cause the rates to fluctuate considerably. In 2004, the rates in all three territories ranged from 9.34 to 22.43, far greater than the rest of Canada.

5. Statistics Canada, Health Statistics Division, Canadian Vital Statistics, Death Database, 2002.
6. International data are based upon the most recent figures available from the National Central Bureau – Interpol Ottawa.
7. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). "Crime in the United States – 2003". U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C.

Figure 2

 **Homicide rates by province, 2004**

Rate per 100,000 population



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

Homicide rates increased in a number of Canada’s largest CMAs

Violent crime, and particularly homicide, is often considered to be a phenomenon of large urban areas. However, historical Canadian data do not support this perception, as non-CMA areas typically report a homicide rate similar to those in census metropolitan areas (CMAs). In fact, in 2004, areas with populations less than 100,000 reported a combined rate (2.01) that was actually higher than Canada’s CMAs as a whole (1.91).

Table 3 divides the CMAs into two major population categories. The first category is comprised of Canada’s nine largest CMAs with populations of 500,000 and over. Historically, these large urban centres have tended to report higher rates of homicide than the smaller CMAs. This trend continued in 2004 with the combined rate in the larger CMAs (2.03) being higher than the combined rate in the smaller CMAs (1.51).

As a group, the nine largest CMAs recorded 57 more homicides in 2004, a 21% increase from 2003. None of the major CMAs reported a notable decline in homicide – the 2004 homicide rates either increased from the previous year or remained about the same.

With almost double the number of homicides in 2004 compared to 2003 (34 versus 18), Winnipeg recorded the highest rate (4.89). The rate in Winnipeg was at its highest point since CMA statistics were first collected in 1981. A firearm was used in one-third (32%) or 11 of the 34 homicides, 8 more than the previous year and more than any number reported since 1981.

Substantial increases were also reported in Calgary, Edmonton (whose rate of 3.39 was at its highest point in more than a decade) and Vancouver.⁸ The rate in Toronto (1.80), Canada’s largest CMA, has remained fairly constant over the past 10 years.

The second CMA category is comprised of the 19 smaller-sized urban areas with populations between 100,000 and 500,000. It should be noted that, because of the small number of homicides in these communities and their relatively small populations, a minor change in the number of homicides in these areas will have a large impact on the rates.

As a group, these 19 smaller CMAs reported virtually the same number of homicides in 2004 as in 2003. The highest rates were recorded in Regina (4.98) and Abbotsford (4.39). There were no homicides in Greater Sudbury or Thunder Bay for the first time since 1981. There were also no homicides in Kingston or Sherbrooke.

Non-CMAs, comprised of areas with less than 100,000 people, reported 223 homicides in 2004, a 7% increase from 2003 but only slightly higher than the previous 10-year average.

Table 4 shows the distribution of homicides occurring within the jurisdiction of Canada’s largest municipal police services. This table illustrates how homicide rates can vary within a CMA. In general, homicide rates tend to be higher among those police services that include inner city areas compared to those that are strictly suburban and/or rural areas.

Methods used to commit homicide

Stabbings rise in 2004

Over the years, the primary method used to commit homicide has varied between stabbings and shootings (Table 5, Figure 3). In 2004, the most common method used was stabbings, accounting for one-third (33%) of all homicides. Although the proportion remained relatively constant compared to previous years, the number of stabbings rose in 2004 to 205, a 44% increase from 2003 and the highest number in more than a decade.

A little more than one-quarter (28%) of homicides were committed with a firearm, similar to the proportion seen over the past 10 years. In comparison, two-thirds (67%) of all homicide victims in the United States were killed with a firearm in 2003 (the latest year for which figures are available).⁹

Another 22% of victims were beaten to death, 10% were strangled or suffocated and 2% were killed with fire (smoke

8. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides included in the Vancouver CMA total for 2004 and 7 homicides included in the total for 2003 all of which occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.
 9. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). “Crime in the United States – 2003”. U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C.



Homicide rates in Canadian CMAs lower than in the U.S.

Canadian rates of homicide among areas with populations of 690,000 or greater, by census metropolitan area, 2004

Census metropolitan area (CMA)	Population	Homicide rate
Québec	714,303	0.8
Ottawa	873,397	1.1
Hamilton	691,088	1.3
Montréal	3,633,264	1.7
Toronto	5,211,843	1.8
Calgary	1,049,006	1.9
Vancouver	2,173,679	2.6
Edmonton	1,003,399	3.4
Winnipeg	695,187	4.9

Homicide rates among Canada's nine largest CMAs tend to be lower when compared to the rates in the major U.S. metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)¹. In 2003 (the latest year for which published data are available), there were 59 MSAs in the U.S. in which the population was 690,000 or greater (equal to or greater than the population in Canada's largest CMAs). The table below presents the ten MSAs with the lowest rates of homicide alongside the ten MSAs with the highest rates.

The rates among the two largest MSAs, New York and Los Angeles (whose populations when combined are similar to Canada as a whole), were both above all of Canada's CMAs (5.2 and 8.7 per 100,000 population respectively).

U.S. rates of homicide among areas with populations of 690,000 or greater, by metropolitan statistical area¹, 2003

Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	Population	Homicide rate	Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	Population	Homicide rate
10 Lowest homicide rates in the U.S.			10 Highest homicide rates in the U.S.		
Honolulu, HI	905,301	1.7	New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	1,319,270	25.5
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	4,453,436	1.9	Richmond, VA	1,140,589	13.6
Worcester, MA	770,995	1.9	Baltimore-Towson, MD	2,626,193	13.0
Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA	2,037,963	2.0	Memphis, TN-MS-AR	1,239,073	12.3
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	760,286	2.4	Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	1,569,549	11.0
Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA	1,620,073	2.5	Birmingham-Hoover, AL	1,071,569	10.5
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	883,882	2.5	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	4,497,319	10.0
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	1,757,692	2.8	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	3,579,924	9.2
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	760,075	2.9	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	5,067,631	9.1
Akron, OH	701,158	2.9	Jacksonville, FL	1,199,156	8.9

1. A metropolitan statistical area (MSA) is similar to a census metropolitan area (CMA). An MSA refers to a principal city or urbanized area with a population of at least 50,000 inhabitants. MSAs include the county that contains the principal city and other adjacent counties that have, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, a high degree of economic and social integration with the principal city and county as measured through commuting. Counties in an MSA are considered metropolitan. Additionally, MSAs may cross state boundaries.

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2004). "Crime in the United States – 2003". U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C.

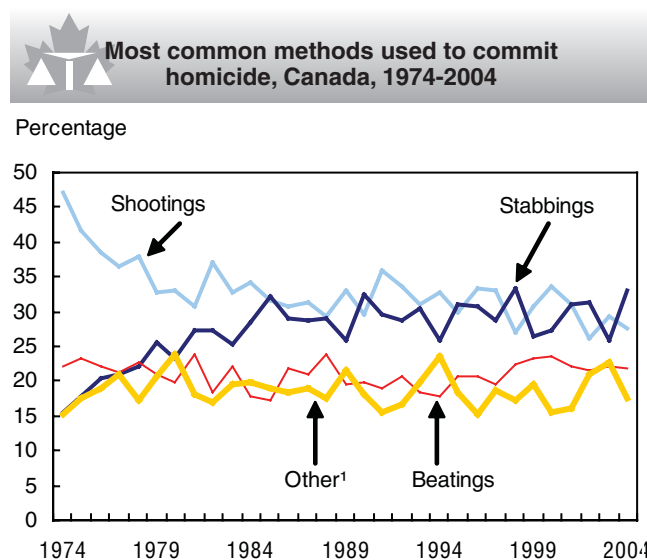
inhalation or burns). Poisoning, deaths caused by shaking (Shaken Baby Syndrome) and deaths caused by motor vehicles each accounted for 1% of all homicides; less than 1% were the result of other causes and 2% were unknown.

Firearm-related homicides actually account for a relatively small proportion of all fatalities involving firearms. According to 2002 health statistics (the latest year for which figures are available), there were a total of 816 deaths in Canada that involved a firearm. Among these, more than three-quarters (78%) were due to suicide, 17% to homicide and 4% to accidental discharge. The remaining 2% were due to legal intervention or undetermined intent.¹⁰

Over the past decade, the highest rates of firearm-related homicide have tended to occur in British Columbia. However, in 2004, the rate in British Columbia (0.93 per 100,000 population) was lower than that reported in Manitoba (1.11 per 100,000 population). With 13 firearm-related homicides, the rate in Manitoba was the highest among the provinces and almost three times higher than its previous 10-year average (Table 6). For the third consecutive year, the rate of firearm-related homicides in Quebec was much lower than the rate previously recorded in that province.

10. Statistics Canada, Health Statistics Division, Canadian Vital Statistics, Death Database, 2002.

Figure 3



1. Other includes strangulation, poisoning, deaths caused by fire (smoke inhalation), exposure/hypothermia, Shaken Baby Syndrome, deaths caused by vehicles, etc.

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

Two-thirds of firearm-related homicides involved handguns

The type of firearm used during the commission of homicides has changed over the past three decades. Prior to 1990, rifles/shotguns were used far more commonly than handguns but, beginning in the early 1990s, the proportions began to reverse. In 2004, handguns accounted for almost two-thirds (65%) of all firearm-related homicides whereas rifles/shotguns accounted for about one in five (22%) (Table 7). Another 9% of homicides were committed with a sawed-off rifle/shotgun, 1% with a fully automatic firearm and the remaining 4% with another type of firearm.

Most firearms used to commit homicide are not registered

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

The available data suggest that most firearms used to commit homicide were not registered and the accused persons were not licensed firearm users. Studies in Australia and England and Wales have found similar results.¹¹ Between 1997 and

Firearm Legislation

Firearm licensing and registration in Canada originated in the late 19th century. In 1892, the first firearm laws were introduced requiring owners of pistols to carry a certificate of exemption. In 1919 and 1920, it became a criminal offence for anyone to purchase a firearm without first having a firearms permit. In 1934, a centralized registry was established which required all handguns to be registered and, in 1951, automatic firearms were added to the category of firearms to be registered.

In 1969, Parliament enacted Bill C-150 and amended the Criminal Code which, for the first time, made it illegal to provide firearms to persons of “unsound mind” or criminals under prohibition orders. The legislation also expanded the definition of a “firearm” which, prior to 1969, only included handguns and automatic firearms, and introduced non-restricted, restricted and prohibited firearm categories. All weapons falling within the “restricted weapons” category were made subject to registration requirements while possession of a “prohibited weapon” was made an offence for anyone not falling within certain exempted classes such as military personnel or peace officers.

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

In 1991, Parliament strengthened the screening provisions for FAC applicants by introducing new legislation (Bill C-17). A multi-page form with a variety of questions concerning the applicant’s personal and criminal history, personal references, photograph, and a mandatory 28-day waiting period for approved FAC applicants was incorporated. The minimum age of applicants was raised to 18 years and the powers of police and firearms officers to conduct background checks on applicants were enhanced.


In 1995, Parliament passed Bill C-68 which created a scheme to control the acquisition, possession, use, transfer, manufacture, distribution, import and export of all types of weapons, but principally firearms and ammunition. Universal licensing came into effect on January 1, 2001 requiring all persons to have a valid license in order to own, possess or register a firearm or to purchase ammunition. As of January 1, 2003, all firearms (including non-restricted rifles and shotguns) had to be registered. In addition, strict new penalties for the trafficking and smuggling of firearms, and tougher mandatory minimum sentences for serious offences involving firearms were created.

Figure 4 shows the firearm-related homicide rate between 1974 and 2004, indicating where legislative changes have been enacted. The information is not intended to imply a causal relationship between gun-control legislation and homicide rates.

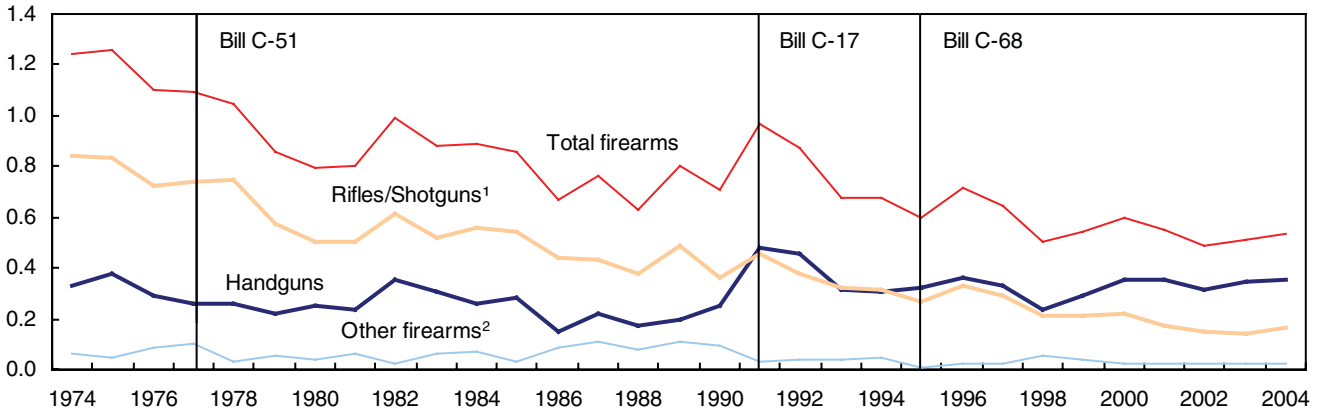
2004 in Canada, firearm-related information on registration status, licensing and ownership was reported as unknown by police among more than half of all homicides.¹² Among those homicides where detailed firearm information was known,

11. Mouzos, J. (2000). “The licensing and registration status of firearms used in homicide”. *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice*. Australian Institute of Criminology. No. 151.
 12. Among the 1,349 firearm-related homicides between 1997 and 2004, police reported registration status as unknown for 748 homicides, licensing information as unknown for 744 homicides and ownership information as unknown for 823 homicides.

Figure 4

 **Rate of firearm homicides, Canada, 1974-2004**

Rate per 100,000 population



Note: The information is not intended to imply a causal relationship between gun-control legislation and homicide rates. See Firearm Legislation textbox for details of Bills.

- 1. Includes sawed-off rifles/shotguns.
- 2. Includes firearm-like weapons (e.g. nail gun, pellet gun) and unknown type of firearm.

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

84% were not registered and four out of every five (79%) accused persons did not possess a valid firearms license. Where ownership of the firearm could be determined by police, the accused owned the firearm in 61% of these homicides, compared to 7% that were owned by victims. For the remaining homicides, someone other than the accused or the victim owned the firearm (31%).


Accused-victim relationship

Most victims knew their killer

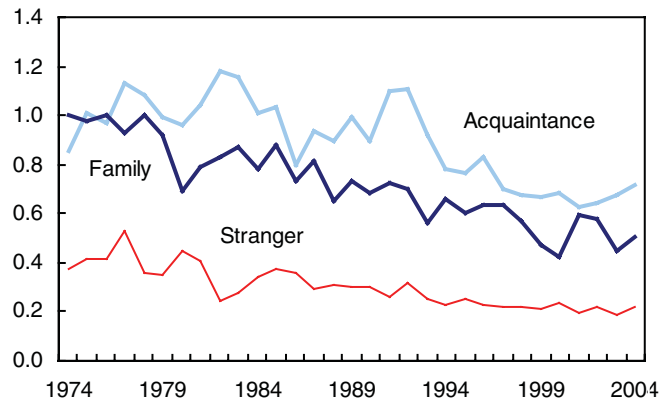
Analysis of the information on accused-victim relationship is limited to those homicides in which an accused person has been identified (i.e. solved cases). Homicide data consistently indicate that victims are far more likely to be killed by someone they know than by a stranger (Figure 5). Among solved homicides in 2004, 85% of victims knew their killer. Half (50%) of the victims were killed by an acquaintance (i.e. non-family), another one-third (35%) were killed by a family member and 15% of victims were killed by strangers (Table 8).

Of those victims killed by an acquaintance, half (50%) of the 230 victims knew their perpetrator on a casual basis. Another 15% of victims were killed by a close friend and 17% were killed by someone with whom they had a criminal relationship (e.g. prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients).

Figure 5

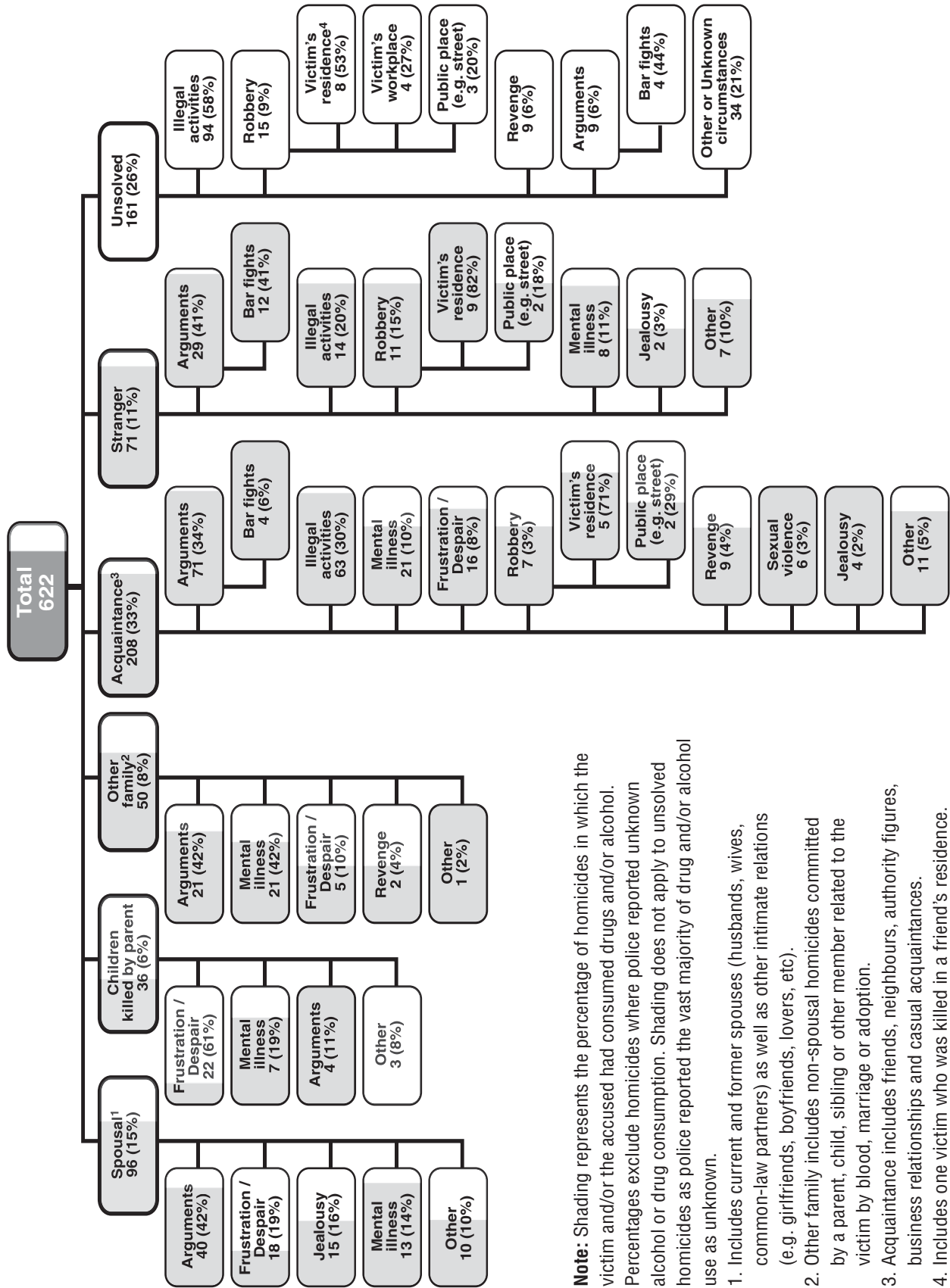
 **Homicides by accused-victim relationship, Canada, 1974-2004**

Rate per 100,000 population



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

A profile of homicide in Canada, 2004



Note: Shading represents the percentage of homicides in which the victim and/or the accused had consumed drugs and/or alcohol. Percentages exclude homicides where police reported unknown alcohol or drug consumption. Shading does not apply to unsolved homicides as police reported the vast majority of drug and/or alcohol use as unknown.

1. Includes current and former spouses (husbands, wives, common-law partners) as well as other intimate relations (e.g. girlfriends, boyfriends, lovers, etc).
2. Other family includes non-spousal homicides committed by a parent, child, sibling or other member related to the victim by blood, marriage or adoption.
3. Acquaintance includes friends, neighbours, authority figures, business relationships and casual acquaintances.
4. Includes one victim who was killed in a friend's residence.

A profile of homicide in Canada, 2004

In order to provide a visual representation on the nature of homicide in Canada, a special study was undertaken to categorize homicides. Using data from the 2004 survey year, the categories were developed from police-reported information that was provided to CCJS as part of the standard questions on the Homicide Survey in conjunction with the supplemental information contained in the narratives (detailed summaries of each homicide incident).

It is important to note that because many factors are involved in the commission of a homicide, it is possible to categorize homicides in multiple ways. For example, a homicide that was committed by someone who was mentally ill during the course of an argument could be classified in two different ways (mental illness or argument). However, for the purposes of this analysis, each homicide was reviewed and categorized only once according to the circumstances surrounding the incident.¹

The first step in the development of the groupings was to categorize each homicide according to the relationship between the accused and the victim. Next, homicides that were committed by an accused person who was mentally ill and those that were committed during the course of illegal activities were identified and classified as such. The remaining homicides were categorized according to the most salient factor that motivated the incident. In some cases (i.e. robberies and arguments) sub-categories were developed based upon the location of the incident.

While classifying the homicides, it became apparent that there was one particular characteristic that was pervasive throughout all types of homicide: the use of alcohol and/or drugs by the accused and/or the victim. As such, in order to demonstrate its prevalence, each box has been shaded according to the percentage of homicides that involved alcohol and/or drugs (unknowns were excluded). The use of intoxicants was particularly prevalent among homicides that stemmed from an argument, independent of the relationship between the victim and the accused.

This process further showed that the categories that involved family members or intimate partner relationships differed from those that involved acquaintances or strangers. The one category that was common to all homicides, regardless of the relationship, was arguments, particularly those that involved alcohol and/or drug consumption.

Family-related and intimate partner homicides

In addition to arguments involving alcohol and/or drug use, family-related and intimate partner homicides were often motivated by the accused person's feelings of frustration, despair and jealousy. Examples include parents who were overwhelmed with caring for their young children, relationships that were in the process of terminating or intimate partners who were in a jealous state.

Mental illness also stood out as a common characteristic among family-related and intimate partner homicides, particularly homicides involving non-intimate family relationships, such as grown children killing their parents.

Acquaintance and stranger homicides

While arguments involving alcohol and/or drug use were the most common characteristic of homicides against acquaintances and strangers, those that involved illegal activities occurred almost as frequently. These homicides typically involved gang-related activities, drug dealing or prostitution.

Robberies were another category of homicides committed by acquaintances or strangers. Including those that were unsolved, there were 33 homicides that were motivated by robbery, two-thirds (22 or 67%) of which occurred in the victim's own home. More than half of the robbery-homicides that occurred in the victim's home were committed against persons aged 60 years or older (12 or 55%).

A number of homicides were committed by mentally ill people against casual acquaintances. Examples of this type of homicide included those that involved persons suffering from schizophrenia or older adults with dementia who were living in residential institutions and killed a housemate.

Bar fights were identified as a sub-category from arguments. This type of homicide involved individuals who, while attending a bar or a nightclub or shortly after leaving (e.g. in the parking lot), engaged in an altercation that ended in homicide. Including those that were unsolved, there were 20 such homicides.

Previous research has shown homelessness to be associated with hate crimes, interpersonal violence and death.² Including those that were unsolved, there were 7 homicides committed against homeless persons, four of whom were killed by a stranger; three were unsolved by police.

Unsolved homicides

The homicides listed under the unsolved column were classified according to the evidence derived from police investigation. Homicides that were the result of illegal activities comprised the majority of this category.

1. The method used in this study involved the creation of mutually exclusive categories whereas the usual method of presenting homicide data involves overlapping categories. As such, the numbers contained in the diagram may not necessarily correspond to the numbers contained in other sections of this report.
2. National Coalition for the Homeless. "Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A report on hate crimes and violence against people experiencing homelessness, 2004. June 2005.

Family-related homicides increase in 2004

Family-related homicides are those that are committed by a spouse (current or former), parent, child, sibling or other member related to the victim by blood, marriage or adoption.¹³ In 2004, almost all categories of family homicide increased from 2003; however, the numbers were similar to the previous 10-year averages. The only category with a substantial drop occurred in the number of separated and divorced wives who were killed by their estranged husbands (from 24 in 2003 to 15 in 2004) (Table 8). This finding is consistent with self-reported decreases in the prevalence of spousal violence by previous partners in general.¹⁴

Spousal homicides continue to decline

Spousal homicides are those that involve persons in legal marriages, those who are separated or divorced from such unions and those in common-law relationships (including same-sex spouses). In 2004, there were 74 spousal homicides, 4 fewer than the previous year, resulting in the third consecutive annual decline in the spousal homicide rate (a 16% drop between 2001 to 2004). In 2004, there were no same-sex spousal homicides; since 1997 when this information was first collected, there have been a total of 6.

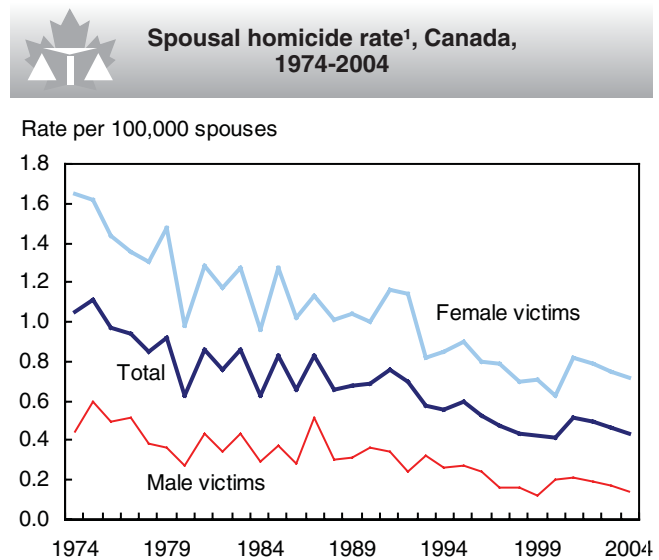
Despite this decrease, spousal homicides accounted for about 16% of all solved homicides and almost half (46%) of all family homicides. As is typically the case, women were much more likely than men to be killed by their spouse – the 2004 spousal homicide rate against females (0.71 per 100,000 female spouses) was 5 times higher than the rate for males (0.14 per 100,000 male spouses) (Figure 6).

Prior research has suggested that those living in common-law relationships are at higher risk of spousal violence compared to those living in legally married relationships.^{14,15} Results from the Homicide Survey lend support to this finding. In 2004, the homicide rate against persons living in common-law relationships (1.09 per 100,000 common-law persons) was almost 5 times higher than the rate for those living in legal marriages (0.24 per 100,000 married persons). Higher spousal homicide rates among common-law relationships versus married unions held true for both male (0.62 and 0.05 respectively) and female victims (1.56 and 0.44 respectively).

The Homicide Survey asks police respondents to indicate whether there had been a history or pattern of violence among homicides involving family members. The findings suggest that many spousal homicides stemmed from a history of prior abuse. In 2004, police reported a history of family violence among 63% of spousal homicides, similar to the proportion found in earlier years.¹⁶ Prior violence was more often reported when the spousal victim was male (67%) than female (62%).¹⁷

As with the homicide rate in general, spousal homicide tends to be lower in the eastern provinces than in the western provinces. In 2004, with about one spouse killed per 100,000 spouses, the highest rates were recorded in Manitoba (1.01) and Saskatchewan (0.98) (Table 9). The exception was in British Columbia where the number of spousal homicides

Figure 6



1. Spouses include legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes 6 same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of Census data on same-sex couples.

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

dropped from 14 in 2003 to 5 in 2004, resulting in the lowest rate (0.22 per 100,000 spouses) in that province since this information became available in 1974. When examining the previous 10-year period, the highest spousal homicide rate was in Saskatchewan (0.76 per 100,000 spouses). It should be noted that the small number of spousal homicides can lead to large year-to-year fluctuations.

Contrary to the trend in spousal homicides, those involving other types of intimate partner relationships (e.g. current or former boyfriends and girlfriends) increased in 2004. There were 22 homicides committed by a non-spousal intimate partner (13 female victims and 9 male victims), double the number killed in 2003 but only slightly higher than the previous 10-year average of 18 (Table 8).

13. For more information on family-related homicides, including spousal homicides, see AuCoin, K. (2005). *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*. Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE, Statistics Canada: Ottawa.

14. Mihorean, K. (2005). "Trends in self-reported spousal violence". *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*. Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE, Statistics Canada: Ottawa.

15. Spousal homicide rates by separated and divorced relationship were not calculated as the available population estimates were not fully consistent with the corresponding relationship types reported by police.

16. Excludes 10 homicides for which police reported history of family violence as unknown.

17. The Homicide Survey does not identify the perpetrator of the violence, only that a history or pattern of violence between the victim and the accused person was present.

Among solved homicides involving victims 15 years and older, half (49%) of all females were killed by someone with whom they had an intimate relationship at some point (either through marriage or dating) compared to 8% of males. Males were far more likely to be killed by an acquaintance or a stranger.

Infants continue to be at highest risk for homicides against children

In 2004, there were 37 homicides perpetrated against children who were less than 12 years of age, an increase from last year but lower than the previous 10-year average (48) (Table 10). As has been the case every year since 1974, infants were at the highest risk for homicide among all child victims. There were 14 babies killed in 2004 – approximately 4 out of every 100,000 infants.

Consistent with previous years, most homicides committed against children in 2004 were perpetrated by parents. Of the 37 child victims, 27 (or 73%) were killed by their mother or father (including step-mother and step-father). In 6 of these incidents, the parent subsequently committed suicide. Fathers and mothers were equally responsible for killing their children in 2004. Of those child homicides committed by a parent, 8 were committed by a father, 5 by a step-father, 13 by a mother and 1 by a mother and step-father.

Of the remaining child homicides, three were committed by another family member and five by a family friend, caregiver or acquaintance. There were no homicides committed against a child that police determined were perpetrated by a stranger. Two were unsolved.

Characteristics of homicide incidents

Gang-related homicides decline in 2004

Gang-related homicides are those reported by police to occur as a consequence of activities involving an organized crime group or street gang (see Glossary section for definitions). Examples include killing a rival gang member over a “turf war” or a drug debt. In fact, 59% of gang-related homicides in 2004 were motivated by the “settling of accounts”.¹⁸ Homicides of innocent bystanders who are killed as a result of gang-related activity are also considered to be gang-related.

Collection of gang-related information was standardized on the Homicide Survey in 1991. Since then, the number of gang-related homicides had generally increased from a low of 13 in 1993 to a high of 84 in 2003. However, in 2004, there were 71 victims killed as a result of gang-related activities, 13 fewer than in the previous year (Table 11). Most of the drop in 2004 was the result of a decline in the number of gang-related homicides reported by the Toronto Police Service.¹⁹

The number of gang-related homicides in 2004 rose in Alberta where police reported 15 such killings, almost double the 2003 figure. Since recording began in 1991, there has not been a gang-related homicide reported in any of the Territories.

Compared to other types of homicide, those that are gang-related more often involve firearms. Of the 71 gang-related killings in 2004, 50 (70%) were committed with a firearm, usually a handgun. This figure is more than three times higher than the percentage of non-gang-related killings that were committed with a firearm (22%).

Multiple-victim incidents similar to previous 10-year average

As is the case every year, the vast majority of homicide incidents in 2004 involved one victim (566 or 95%). However, there were 25 incidents that involved two victims and 2 incidents that involved three victims. The 27 multiple-victim incidents were 8 more than last year but similar to the previous 10-year average of 28.

Multiple-victim incidents involve family members more often than single-victim incidents. Among solved multiple-victim incidents in 2004, family members were responsible for killing nearly half (46%) of all victims (compared to 34% of single-victim homicides). Another 39% of victims were killed by an acquaintance²⁰ and the remaining 15% were killed by a stranger. Slightly more than half of the victims were male (55%) and the accused persons were male in all but 4 incidents.

Murder-suicides usually family-related

About 6% of all incidents culminate in the suicide of the accused person. In 2004, there were 34 murder-suicide incidents (involving 43 victims), 4 less than the previous 10-year average of 38.

As in previous years, most murder-suicides in 2004 involved family members or intimate partner relationships motivated by the accused person’s feelings of jealousy, frustration, anger or despair. All but one incident involved the accused person killing a family member (e.g. spouse, child), a current or former intimate partner or an ex-partner’s new lover.

Mental illness is often reported among persons who commit murder-suicide. In 2004, police reported the presence of a mental disorder (e.g. depression) among almost half (48%) of all persons accused of murder-suicide.²¹

Half of all incidents are first-degree murder

Among the 593 incidents (involving 622 victims)²² in 2004, police classified about half (52%) of all incidents as first degree murder, another 36% as second degree murder and 12% as

18. Excludes 7 victims for which police reported the motive as unknown.
19. In 2003, the Toronto Police undertook a special project to respond to gang violence resulting in 31 homicides being identified as affiliated with gang membership or organized crime (up from 8 in 2002). By 2004, this project had ended.
20. Includes casual acquaintance, friend and criminal relationship.
21. Excludes 9 accused persons for which police reported the presence of a mental disorder as unknown.
22. As is the case every year, the incident count is lower than the victim count due to incidents involving multiple victims.

manslaughter. There were only 2 incidents of infanticide. These proportions have remained relatively consistent for more than a decade.

Three-quarters of incidents solved by police

When police investigation leads to the identification of an accused person against whom a charge can be laid, the incident is considered to be solved. An incident may also be solved when it is “cleared otherwise” for circumstances such as the death of the accused. In general, homicide incidents tend to be solved by police at a higher rate compared to other types of violent crime.

In 2004, three-quarters (74%) or 440 of the 593 homicide incidents were solved by police, similar to the rate reported in previous years. It is important to note that the process of solving a homicide is often complex and time-consuming and an incident may not be solved until after it has been reported by police to the Homicide Survey. Therefore, these data likely underestimate final police clearance rates. Should an incident later become solved, this information is updated on the Homicide Survey upon notification by police.

Most homicides occur in a private residence

Similar to previous years, almost two-thirds (62%) of homicide incidents in 2004 occurred in a private residence.²³ Among these incidents, 39% occurred in the victim’s home and 34% occurred in a residence that was jointly occupied by both the victim and the accused. Not surprisingly, the vast majority of family-related incidents (93%) occurred in a private residence, most commonly the home of both the victim and the accused.

The locations of the remaining incidents were distributed as follows: 24% in an open area (parking lot, street or open field); 7% in a commercial place (convenience store, gas station, bar or restaurant); 4% in a privately owned vehicle or a taxi; and 2% in a public institution (high school, hospital or correctional institution).

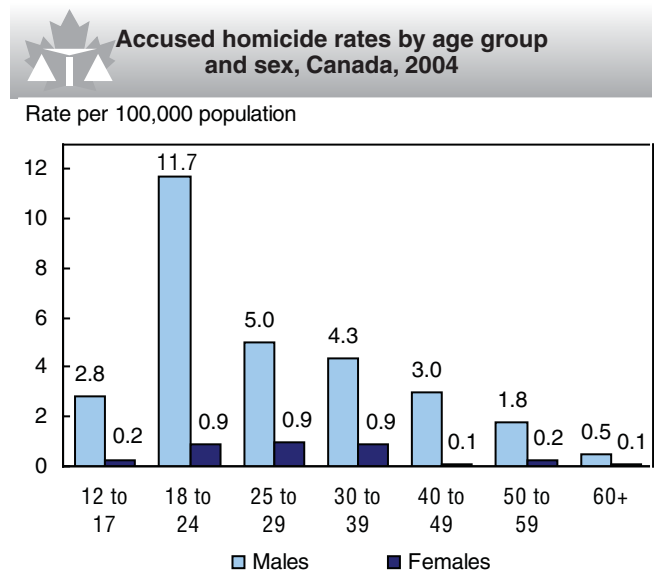
Characteristics of victims and accused

Males accounted for the majority of victims and accused persons

Consistent with previous years, almost 9 in 10 persons accused of homicide were male in 2004 (Table 12). The rate of accused males peaked at 18 to 24 years of age and steadily declined with increasing age. On the other hand, the rate for female accused was constant for the age groups between 18 and 39 years of age (Figure 7).

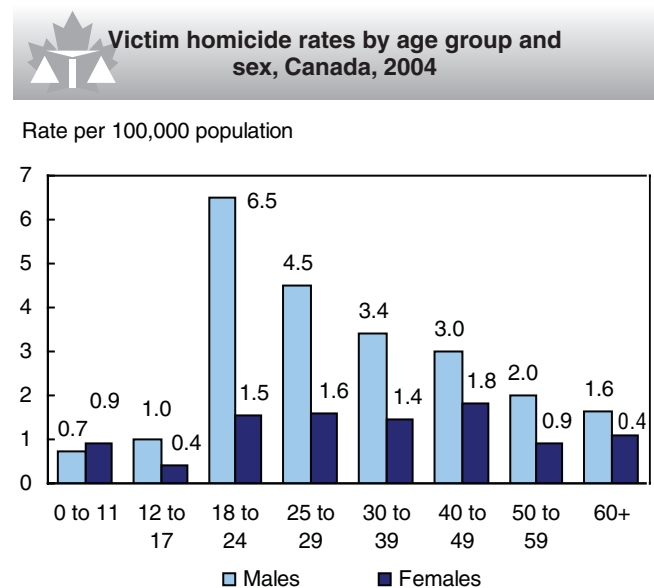
Two-thirds (68%) of homicide victims in 2004 were male – there were 424 male victims and 198 female victims. As with accused persons, the victimization rate for males peaked at 18-24 years of age and steadily declined with increasing age. On the other hand, female victimization rates remained fairly consistent between 18 and 49 years of age (Figure 8).

Figure 7



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

Figure 8



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

23. Excludes 20 incidents for which police reported the specific location of the incident as unknown.

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

In 1997, the Homicide Survey began collecting information on the criminal history of victims and accused persons. While it is possible for a person to have more than one prior conviction, police are asked only to indicate the most serious.

In 2004, more than two-thirds (68%) of adults (18 years or older) accused of homicide had a Canadian criminal record.²⁴ Among those adults with a criminal history, 70% had a prior conviction for a violent offence: 8 for homicide, 51 for robbery and 183 for another type of violent offence. A further 14% of adults with a criminal record had a prior conviction for a property offence, 4% for a drug conviction and 12% for another *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offence.

As with adults, a substantial proportion of youth accused had a criminal past. Among the 40 youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide in 2004, more than half (54%) had a criminal history.²⁵ About two-thirds (65%) of all youth with a criminal history had a conviction for a violent offence (none of which were for homicide). Another 15% had a prior conviction for a property offence, 5% for a drug conviction and 15% for another *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offence. Male accused, as both adults and youth, were more likely than females to have a criminal past.

Prior contact with the criminal justice system is not limited to accused persons. Half (51%) of all adult homicide victims (18 years or older) had a Canadian criminal record.²⁶ About half (52%) of these victims had a prior violent conviction: 5 for homicide, 30 for robbery and 113 for another violent offence. A further 13% of adult victims with a criminal record had a prior conviction for a property offence, 12% for a drug conviction and 23% for another *Criminal Code* or federal/provincial statute offence.

Of the 18 youth victims (12 to 17 years), 4 (22%) had a previous criminal history. As with accused persons, male victims were more likely than female victims to have a previous criminal conviction for both adults and youth.

Aboriginal people are over-represented as homicide victims and accused

While Aboriginal people account for approximately 3% of the Canadian population, they comprised 17% of victims and 22% of persons accused of committing homicide in 2004. It is important to note that these data exclude those victims and accused persons where police reported Aboriginal status as unknown. In accordance with internal guidelines, some police services (such as the RCMP and the Toronto Police Service) do not report the Aboriginal status of victims and accused persons to the Homicide Survey.²⁷ In other cases, this information was not known to police at the time the data were reported. In 2004, Aboriginal origin was reported by police for 56% of victims and 59% of accused.

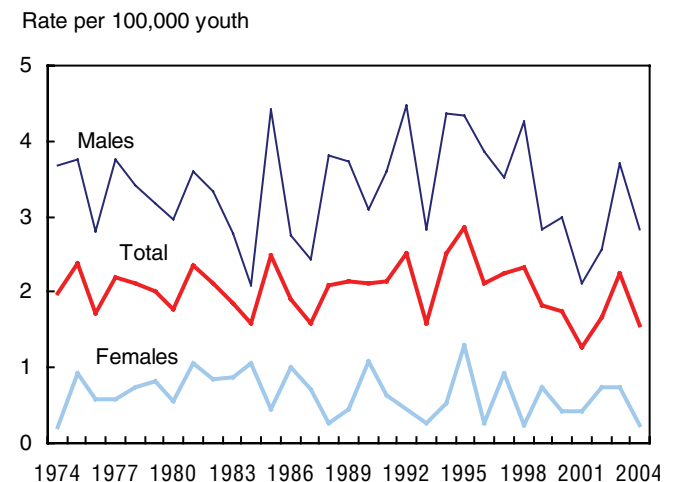
Youth homicide

Homicides committed by youth decline in 2004

There were 40 youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide in 2004, 17 fewer than the previous year (Table 13). The rate of youth accused was at its second lowest point in more than 30 years (Figure 9). The decrease in the number of youth accused of homicide in 2004 coincides with a decline in youth crime overall (-4%), including violent crime (-2%).²⁸

Figure 9

Youth (12-17 years) accused of homicide, Canada, 1974-2004



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

Among the 40 youth accused, 37 were males and 3 were females. The 37 male youth accused was 11 fewer than the previous year and 6 lower than the previous 10-year average. The 3 female youth accused of homicide was 6 lower than in 2003, matching the lows reached in only six other years since 1971.

- 24. Excludes 18 accused for which police reported previous conviction for criminal activity as unknown.
- 25. Excludes 3 accused for which police reported previous conviction for criminal activity as unknown.
- 26. Excludes 14 victims for which police reported previous conviction for criminal activity as unknown.
- 27. For more information on the collection of Aboriginal data in Canada, see Kong, R. and Beattie, K. (2005). "Collecting Data on Aboriginal People in the Criminal Justice System: Methods and Challenges". Catalogue 85-564-XIE. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- 28. Sauvé, J. (2005). "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2004". Juristat, Catalogue 85-002-XPE. Vol. 25, No. 5. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

In general, most homicides are committed by a single accused. However, homicides committed by youth often involved more than one accused. Of the 32 incidents involving youth, half (16 incidents) were committed by two or more individuals. Comparatively, of the 408 solved incidents committed solely by adults, 12% (50 incidents) involved two or more accused.

Among the 32 victims killed by a youth, 5 were family members, 3 were intimate partners, 17 were acquaintances²⁹ and 7 were strangers. As is the case historically, youth were more likely than adults to kill other youth and young adults. Among solved homicides committed by youth in 2004, two-thirds of victims were between 14 and 24 years of age compared to 17% of victims killed by adults.

Precipitating factors

Many homicides are related to alcohol and/or drug consumption

Alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants are known to play a role in the commission of many crimes including homicide.³⁰ Among cases where it was known whether alcohol or drugs were a factor,³¹ police reported that the majority of accused persons (73%) and victims (55%) had consumed an intoxicant at the time of the homicide. Males were more likely than females to have used alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the homicide, as both victims and accused persons (63% versus 39% for victims and 74% versus 61% for accused).

Alcohol and/or drug use was particularly prevalent when the homicide stemmed from an argument between the victim and the accused. Of those homicides that resulted from an argument, 86% of accused persons and 72% of victims had used drugs and/or alcohol.

Mentally ill accused more likely to kill family members than strangers

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

Police suspected the presence of a mental or developmental disorder among 14% of accused persons in 2004,³² similar to the percentage reported each year since 1997. Those with a mental illness were more likely to kill a family member or intimate partner (58%) as compared to an acquaintance (30%) or stranger (12%).

Half of all homicide incidents occurred during another offence

Half (49%) of the homicide incidents in 2004 in which data were available occurred during the commission of another offence that led to the homicide.³³ Of these 232 incidents, the majority (180) were committed as a result of another

violent offence: 106 during an assault, 45 during a robbery, 8 during a sexual assault, 5 as the result of stalking, 3 during a kidnapping/abduction and 13 during other violent offences. Six other homicide incidents occurred as a result of arson, 14 occurred as a result of other property offences (e.g. break and enter, theft) and 32 resulted from other types of criminal offences.

At-risk occupations

Two police officers killed in 2004

The Homicide Survey collects information on homicides that are related to a victim's occupation (legal or illegal). Because of the inherent dangers associated with some occupations, there are certain people who are at greater risk for violence and homicide. It is important to note that the following analysis includes only those victims whose deaths directly resulted from their profession, either partly or entirely. For example, if a police officer were killed because of a domestic dispute that was not related to his/her work, then this homicide would not be counted as an occupation-related homicide.

It is relatively rare for a victim to be killed during the course of legal employment. Since 1961, there have been 120 police officers killed in the line of duty, including two in 2004 (1 in Alberta and 1 in Ontario). By comparison, preliminary figures for 2004 from the United States, with a population about eight times greater than Canada's, reported 54 police officers feloniously killed in the line of duty.³⁴

There were 11 other homicides that occurred as a result of the victim's legal employment: 1 parole officer, 4 store/bar managers, 2 taxi drivers, 2 truck drivers, 1 insurance adjuster and 1 real estate agent. Since this information became available from the Homicide Survey in 1997, there has been an average of 17 victims killed each year while "on-the-job".

Many victims involved in illegal "occupations"

Data from the Homicide Survey have shown that homicides are often associated with a victim's involvement in illegal activities, such as gang activities, drug dealing or trafficking and prostitution. In 2004, police-reported a total of 18 prostitutes killed. This is the third year in a row in which the number of prostitutes killed reflected homicides related to investigations

29. Includes close friends, criminal relationship and casual acquaintances.
30. Parker, R.N. and Auerhahn, K. (1999). "Drugs, alcohol and homicide: Issues in theory and research" in *Homicide: A Sourcebook of Social Research*. Edited by Smith, M.D. and Zahn, M.A. Thousand Oaks, Sage Publications. pp. 176-191.
31. Excludes 178 victims and 197 accused persons for which police reported the consumption of alcohol and/or drugs as unknown.
32. Excludes 120 accused persons for which police reported the mental health status as unknown.
33. Excludes 117 incidents for which police reported an associated or related offence as unknown.
34. Based upon preliminary figures released by the U.S. Department of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Press Release, May 16, 2005.

in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia.³⁵ Police were able to establish that 11 of the prostitutes were killed as a direct result of their profession, 6 where police were unable to make this determination and 1 where police determined that that the homicide was not related to the victim's "occupation".

There were another 100 homicides committed against persons working in other types of illegal "occupations" such as drug dealers, members of an organized crime group or a gang, 21 more than 2003. Police were able to establish that 81 of these homicides occurred as a direct result of the victim's profession, 9 where police were unable to make this determination and 10 where police determined that that the homicide was not related to the victim's "occupation".

35. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., police reported 5 homicides in 2004, 7 homicides in 2003 and 15 homicides in 2002 all of which occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

Glossary of terms

Accused

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

Gang-related homicide

Gang-related homicides are those reported by police to occur as a consequence of activities involving an organized crime group or street gang.

Organized crime group

An organized crime group consists of a static or fluid group of (two or more) individuals who communicate, co-operate, and conspire within an ongoing collective or network; and has, as one of its main purposes or activities, the facilitation or commission of offences undertaken or planned to generate material benefits or financial gain.

Street gang

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

Homicide

A homicide occurs when a person directly or indirectly, by any means, causes the death of a human being. Homicide is either culpable (murder, manslaughter or infanticide) or non-culpable (not an offence and, therefore, not included in the Homicide Survey). Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide and accidental or justifiable homicide (e.g. self-defence) are not included.

Homicide count

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

Homicide rate

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

Incident

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

Infanticide

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

Manslaughter

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

Murder

A murder occurs when a person intentionally, by a wilful act or omission, causes the death of another human being, or means to cause bodily harm that the person knows is likely to cause death.

First degree murder occurs when:

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

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

Solved homicide

A homicide is solved when an accused person has been identified by police and the incident has been cleared either by charge (laid or recommended) or "otherwise" (e.g. death of the accused by suicide or natural causes).

Methodology

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

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police department completes a survey questionnaire, which is then sent to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. This questionnaire remained virtually unmodified from 1961 to 1990. In 1991 and later in 1997, in an effort to respond to changing information needs, the survey was revised and expanded.

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

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

Table 1


Number of homicides, by province/territory, 1961-2004¹

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ²	Y.T.	N.W.T. ³	Nvt.	Canada
1961	1	1	6	2	52	89	15	14	18	34	1	0	...	233
1962	0	1	10	8	62	76	19	13	18	55	3	0	...	265
1963	3	0	6	5	69	76	16	8	27	35	3	1	...	249
1964	5	0	13	5	52	81	16	20	25	32	1	3	...	253
1965	6	4	10	5	63	77	15	15	20	57	3	2	...	277
1966	3	1	9	6	56	71	17	12	27	48	0	0	...	250
1967	1	0	10	5	75	114	15	25	38	47	6	2	...	338
1968	5	0	9	5	102	104	28	23	25	73	1	0	...	375
1969	5	1	12	1	126	111	28	33	23	50	0	1	...	391
1970	1	1	15	8	141	115	29	24	42	78	6	7	...	467
1971	2	0	16	10	124	151	33	29	45	61	0	2	...	473
1972	2	2	14	11	157	141	36	28	37	88	3	2	...	521
1973	3	0	19	17	155	160	38	23	36	87	4	4	...	546
1974	3	2	8	21	169	160	42	31	44	107	5	8	...	600
1975	4	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 ⁴	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	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
2003 ^r	5	1	8	8	99	178	43	41	64	94	1	4	3	549
2004	2	0	13	7	111	187	50	39	86	112	7	4	4	622

... figures not applicable

^r revised

1. There are some homicides that are included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.
2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003 and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.
3. Includes Nunavut before 1999.
4. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.

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

Table 2


Homicide victim rates¹, by province/territory, 1961-2004

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C. ²	Y.T.	N.W.T. ³	Nvt.	Canada	% change Canada
1961	0.22	0.96	0.81	0.33	0.99	1.43	1.63	1.51	1.35	2.09	6.84	0.00	...	1.28	...
1962	0.00	0.93	1.34	1.32	1.15	1.20	2.03	1.40	1.31	3.31	19.99	0.00	...	1.43	11.6
1963	0.63	0.00	0.80	0.82	1.26	1.17	1.69	0.86	1.92	2.06	20.01	3.89	...	1.32	-7.8
1964	1.04	0.00	1.72	0.82	0.93	1.22	1.67	2.12	1.75	1.83	6.69	11.18	...	1.31	-0.3
1965	1.23	3.69	1.32	0.81	1.11	1.13	1.55	1.58	1.38	3.17	20.57	7.29	...	1.41	7.5
1966	0.61	0.92	1.19	0.97	0.97	1.02	1.77	1.26	1.85	2.56	0.00	0.00	...	1.25	-11.4
1967	0.20	0.00	1.32	0.81	1.28	1.60	1.56	2.61	2.55	2.42	39.97	6.89	...	1.66	32.8
1968	0.99	0.00	1.17	0.80	1.72	1.43	2.88	2.40	1.64	3.64	6.65	0.00	...	1.81	9.2
1969	0.97	0.90	1.55	0.16	2.11	1.50	2.86	3.44	1.48	2.43	0.00	3.22	...	1.86	2.8
1970	0.19	0.91	1.92	1.28	2.35	1.52	2.95	2.55	2.63	3.67	35.25	21.21	...	2.19	17.8
1971	0.38	0.00	2.01	1.56	2.02	1.92	3.30	3.11	2.70	2.72	0.00	5.49	...	2.15	-1.8
1972	0.37	1.76	1.75	1.70	2.54	1.77	3.59	3.04	2.18	3.82	14.89	5.16	...	2.34	8.9
1973	0.55	0.00	2.34	2.59	2.49	1.98	3.77	2.52	2.09	3.68	18.91	9.82	...	2.43	3.5
1974	0.55	1.72	0.98	3.16	2.70	1.95	4.13	3.41	2.51	4.38	23.73	19.45	...	2.63	8.4
1975	0.72	0.00	1.69	1.77	3.57	2.48	3.61	3.92	3.15	3.92	27.39	11.67	...	3.03	15.1
1976	1.07	1.69	2.99	2.03	3.20	2.18	3.00	3.65	3.64	3.47	17.80	18.05	...	2.85	-6.0
1977	1.42	0.83	1.67	5.46	3.06	2.26	4.24	4.87	3.59	3.54	26.27	8.96	...	3.00	5.2
1978	1.59	3.29	1.54	3.86	2.80	2.12	3.75	3.36	4.15	3.25	8.42	8.84	...	2.76	-8.0
1979	0.88	0.00	2.00	1.56	2.88	2.02	4.24	3.75	2.67	3.38	16.67	15.31	...	2.61	-5.5
1980	0.52	0.81	1.41	1.27	2.78	1.81	3.00	3.20	2.51	3.83	8.22	8.64	...	2.41	-7.4
1981	0.70	0.81	1.29	2.41	2.84	1.93	3.96	2.97	3.18	3.90	4.18	10.51	...	2.61	8.1
1982	1.04	0.00	1.40	1.84	2.89	2.06	3.34	3.95	2.96	3.79	8.17	14.14	...	2.66	1.7
1983	1.04	0.00	1.50	1.54	2.88	2.23	3.77	3.29	3.14	3.72	4.23	5.88	...	2.69	1.2
1984	1.03	0.00	1.71	1.94	2.99	2.07	4.01	2.95	2.26	3.73	8.36	9.51	...	2.60	-3.1
1985 ⁴	0.86	0.78	2.94	1.93	3.29	2.08	2.40	2.73	2.62	3.80	24.63	18.38	...	2.72	4.6
1986	0.69	0.00	1.69	1.65	2.33	1.47	4.31	2.53	2.63	2.96	12.26	25.60	...	2.18	-20.0
1987	0.87	0.00	1.57	2.75	2.57	2.12	4.01	2.90	3.00	2.56	0.00	3.63	...	2.43	11.7
1988	1.22	0.77	1.23	1.10	2.25	1.89	2.81	2.24	2.69	2.57	3.76	14.37	...	2.15	-11.7
1989	0.87	0.77	1.77	2.45	3.10	1.73	3.90	2.16	2.69	2.69	7.38	12.27	...	2.41	12.0
1990	0.00	0.77	0.99	1.62	2.63	1.77	3.53	3.57	2.91	3.34	3.60	20.37	...	2.38	-1.1
1991	1.73	1.53	2.29	2.28	2.56	2.35	3.79	2.09	3.24	3.79	0.00	4.92	...	2.69	12.9
1992	0.34	0.00	2.28	1.47	2.34	2.29	2.61	3.19	3.49	3.52	6.64	20.86	...	2.58	-4.1
1993	1.21	1.51	2.06	1.47	2.22	1.80	2.77	2.98	1.84	3.36	0.00	11.04	...	2.19	-15.3
1994	0.70	0.75	2.05	2.00	1.75	1.77	2.58	2.38	2.44	3.07	10.10	6.15	...	2.06	-6.0
1995	0.88	0.74	1.83	1.86	1.87	1.65	2.39	2.07	2.19	3.18	13.14	4.52	...	2.01	-2.4
1996	1.25	0.74	1.93	1.20	2.13	1.69	3.97	3.14	1.91	3.23	0.00	5.93	...	2.14	6.9
1997	1.27	0.00	2.57	1.06	1.81	1.59	2.73	2.46	2.16	2.94	3.15	4.44	...	1.96	-8.6
1998	1.30	0.74	2.58	0.67	1.88	1.37	2.90	3.24	2.21	2.26	9.63	7.44	...	1.85	-5.6
1999	0.38	0.73	1.39	1.20	1.87	1.41	2.28	1.28	2.07	2.74	3.25	2.46	7.46	1.77	-4.4
2000	1.14	2.20	1.61	1.33	2.04	1.34	2.61	2.58	1.96	2.10	6.57	2.47	10.91	1.78	0.5
2001	0.19	1.46	0.97	1.07	1.89	1.43	2.95	2.70	2.29	2.06	3.32	9.80	10.67	1.78	0.2
2002	0.39	0.73	0.96	1.20	1.58	1.47	3.12	2.71	2.25	3.06	0.00	9.64	6.96	1.86	4.1
2003	0.96	0.73	0.85	1.07	1.32	1.45	3.70	4.12	2.03	2.26	3.27	9.48	10.29	1.73	-6.5
2004	0.39	0.00	1.39	0.93	1.47	1.51	4.27	3.92	2.69	2.67	22.43	9.34	13.49	1.95	12.3

... figures not applicable

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

1961-1970: Final intercensal estimates.

1971-1995: Revised intercensal estimates, adjusted for net undercoverage.

1996-2000: Final intercensal estimates.

2001-2002: Final postcensal estimates.

2003: Updated postcensal estimates.

2004: Preliminary postcensal estimates.

2. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003 and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

3. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

4. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.

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

Table 3


Homicides by Census Metropolitan Area

Census Metropolitan Area ¹	2004 ²			2003 ^{3r}			Average 1994-2003	
	Population ⁴	Number of victims	Rate ⁵	Population ⁴	Number of victims	Rate ⁵	Number of victims	Rate ⁵
500,000+ population								
Toronto	5,211,843	94	1.80	5,122,598	95	1.85	80	1.73
Montréal	3,633,264	63	1.73	3,604,587	56	1.55	71	2.08
Vancouver ⁶	2,173,679	56	2.58	2,141,179	45	2.10	52	2.65
Calgary	1,049,006	20	1.91	1,030,256	11	1.07	15	1.61
Edmonton	1,003,399	34	3.39	991,603	22	2.22	23	2.42
Ottawa ^{7,8}	873,397	10	1.15	868,293	10	1.15	10	1.25
Québec	714,303	6	0.84	709,462	3	0.42	9	1.25
Winnipeg	695,187	34	4.89	689,532	18	2.61	19	2.86
Hamilton ⁹	691,088	9	1.30	684,476	9	1.31	12	1.82
Total	16,045,165	326	2.03	15,841,985	269	1.70	291	1.98
100,000 to less than 500,000 population								
Kitchener	475,739	6	1.26	470,188	1	0.21	4	0.96
London	466,314	5	1.07	464,229	8	1.72	5	1.07
St. Catharines-Niagara	431,265	7	1.62	430,313	6	1.39	6	1.33
Halifax	379,770	9	2.37	376,870	3	0.80	7	2.01
Windsor	331,149	4	1.21	328,840	9	2.74	6	2.01
Victoria	330,752	5	1.51	328,700	5	1.52	6	2.00
Oshawa	328,864	6	1.82	321,726	1	0.31	2	0.70
Gatineau ¹⁰	282,317	1	0.35	276,635	3	1.08	4	1.51
Saskatoon	242,737	8	3.30	241,372	8	3.31	6	2.61
Regina	200,977	10	4.98	199,766	10	5.01	6	2.86
St. John's	178,629	1	0.56	177,005	2	1.13	2	1.20
Greater Sudbury	160,839	0	0.00	160,866	1	0.62	3	1.76
Abbotsford ¹¹	159,369	7	4.39	157,069	8	5.09	4	2.56
Kingston ^{11, 12}	154,666	0	0.00	153,840	5	3.25	3	2.18
Saguenay	148,260	2	1.35	148,211	0	0.00	1	0.67
Sherbrooke	147,063	0	0.00	145,535	0	0.00	2	1.26
Saint John	145,020	1	0.69	144,797	1	0.69	2	1.35
Trois-Rivières	144,738	1	0.69	144,313	0	0.00	2	1.11
Thunder Bay	124,856	0	0.00	125,281	1	0.80	3	2.10
Total	4,833,324	73	1.51	4,795,556	72	1.50	74	1.54
CMA totals	20,878,490	399	1.91	20,637,540	341	1.65	365	1.88
< 100,000 population	11,067,826	223	2.01	11,022,926	208	1.89	215	1.92
Canada	31,946,316	622	1.95	31,660,466	549	1.73	580	1.89

r revised

1. Note that a CMA usually comprises more than one police force.

2. A total of 20 homicides were reported and included in 2004 but occurred in previous years: 2 in Montréal; 1 in Edmonton; 5 in Vancouver and 12 in areas < 100,000 population.

3. A total of 25 homicides were reported and included in 2003 but occurred in previous years: 1 in St. John's; 1 in Saint John; 1 in Québec; 1 in Edmonton; 7 in Vancouver and 14 in areas < 100,000 population.

4. Population estimates were derived from 2004 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2003 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Estimates have been revised and adjusted by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to correspond to police boundaries.

5. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

6. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in the Vancouver CMA total for 2004 and 7 reported in the total for 2003 all of which occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.

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

8. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2003.

9. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2004.

10. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

11. Abbotsford and Kingston became CMAs in 2001. Average number and rate are calculated from 2001 to 2003.

12. Includes 3 homicides that occurred in a correctional institution and 1 that occurred in a halfway house in 2003.

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

Table 4


Homicides occurring within the jurisdiction of the 30 largest municipal police services

Police Service	2004			2003 ^r		
	Population ¹	Number of victims	Rate ²	Population ¹	Number of victims	Rate ²
Toronto CMA Police Services³						
Toronto Police	2,603,182	64	2.46	2,612,576	66	2.53
Peel Regional Police	1,108,112	15	1.35	1,066,779	16	1.50
York Regional Police	889,002	13	1.46	848,571	10	1.18
Montréal CMA Police Services³						
Montréal Police	1,877,192	43	2.29	1,871,161	41	2.19
Longueuil Police	385,110	4	1.04	384,609	4	1.04
Laval Police	364,806	6	1.64	360,434	4	1.11
Vancouver CMA Police Services³						
Vancouver Police	584,709	24	4.10	579,367	19	3.28
Surrey (RCMP) Police	383,831	10	2.61	378,578	5	1.32
Burnaby (RCMP) Police	202,966	2	0.99	202,852	2	0.99
Richmond (RCMP) Police	172,714	6	3.47	172,579	1	0.58
Other Large Municipal Police Services						
Calgary Police	951,634	16	1.68	937,116	8	0.85
Ottawa Police	829,578	10	1.21	825,124	10	1.21
Edmonton Police	709,493	29	4.09	702,214	18	2.56
Winnipeg Police	647,433	34	5.25	642,643	18	2.80
Durham Regional Police ⁴	563,220	6	1.07	550,826	3	0.54
Québec Police	526,991	6	1.14	524,376	3	0.57
Hamilton Regional Police	519,734	9	1.73	517,791	8	1.55
Waterloo Regional Police	475,739	6	1.26	470,188	1	0.21
Niagara Regional Police	431,265	7	1.62	430,313	6	1.39
Halton Regional Police ⁴	427,219	2	0.47	415,249	3	0.72
London Police	356,436	5	1.40	355,258	7	1.97
Gatineau-Métro Police	231,788	1	0.43	226,766	3	1.32
Windsor Police	221,463	4	1.81	220,822	9	4.08
Halifax Regional Police	212,638	7	3.29	211,012	3	1.42
Saskatoon Police	201,929	8	3.96	201,416	8	3.97
Regina Police	182,398	10	5.48	181,649	10	5.51
St. John's (RNC) Police	178,629	1	0.56	177,005	2	1.13
Greater Sudbury Police	160,839	0	0.00	160,866	1	0.62
Saguenay Police	148,260	2	1.35	148,211	0	0.00
Sherbrooke Regional Police	147,063	0	0.00	145,535	0	0.00

^r revised

1. Police service population estimates were derived from 2004 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2003 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

3. Only the largest police services are listed under the Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver CMA's and do not necessarily represent all of the police services in those CMA's.

4. Note that 60% of the crime handled by Halton Regional Police and 35% of the crime handled by Durham Regional Police fall within Toronto CMA boundaries.

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

Table 5


Methods used to commit homicide, Canada, 1994-2004

Year	Shooting		Stabbing		Beating		Strangulation/ Suffocation		Shaken baby syndrome ¹		Fire (smoke inhalation, burns)	
	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%
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 ^r	165	30.7	143	26.6	125	23.2	55	10.2	7	1.3	11	2.0
2000 ^r	184	33.7	149	27.3	128	23.4	39	7.1	13	2.4	5	0.9
2001	171	30.9	171	30.9	122	22.1	47	8.5	8	1.4	8	1.4
2002 ^r	152	26.1	182	31.3	126	21.7	66	11.3	8	1.4	9	1.5
2003 ^r	161	29.3	142	25.9	121	22.0	64	11.7	8	1.5	12	2.2
2004	172	27.7	205	33.0	136	21.9	63	10.1	6	1.0	13	2.1

Year	Poisoning		Vehicle ¹		Other ²		Unknown ³		Total	
	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%
1994	11	1.8	...	...	22	3.7	6	1.0	596	100.0
1995	6	1.0	...	...	6	1.0	6	1.0	588	100.0
1996	6	0.9	...	...	12	1.9	11	1.7	635	100.0
1997	8	1.4	6	1.0	2	0.3	5	0.9	586	100.0
1998	6	1.1	3	0.5	2	0.4	6	1.1	558	100.0
1999 ^r	5	0.9	13	2.4	4	0.7	10	1.9	538	100.0
2000 ^r	4	0.7	14	2.6	1	0.2	9	1.6	546	100.0
2001	8	1.4	5	0.9	5	0.9	8	1.4	553	100.0
2002 ^r	3	0.5	7	1.2	6	1.0	23	4.0	582	100.0
2003 ^r	6	1.1	6	1.1	7	1.3	22	4.0	549	100.0
2004	7	1.1	6	1.0	1	0.2	13	2.1	622	100.0

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

... figures not applicable

r revised


1. Data became available in 1997.

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

3. Includes 5 victims in 2004, 7 victims in 2003 and 15 victims in 2002 in which police in Port Coquitlam, B.C. reported the method used to commit homicide as unknown.

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

Table 6



Homicides involving firearms, by region

Region	2004		2003 ^r		Average 1994-2003	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
Atlantic	6	0.26	6	0.26	9	0.39
Quebec	30	0.40	36	0.48	55	0.75
Ontario	55	0.44	54	0.44	52	0.46
Manitoba	13	1.11	3	0.26	5	0.40
Saskatchewan	4	0.40	6	0.60	5	0.45
Alberta	23	0.72	18	0.57	16	0.55
British Columbia	39	0.93	36	0.87	33	0.83
Territories ²	2	...	2	...	2	...
Canada	172	0.54	161	0.51	177	0.58


... figures not applicable

1. Population estimates were derived from 2004 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2003 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

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

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

Table 7



Homicides involving firearms, by type of firearm, Canada, 1994-2004

Year	Type of Firearm											Firearm-related homicides as a % of total
	Handgun		Rifle/Shotgun		Fully automatic firearm		Sawed-off rifle/shotgun		Other firearms ¹		Total	
	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	
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	2.7	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	64.5	40	26.3	3	2.0	6	3.9	5	3.3	152	26.1
2003	109	67.7	32	19.9	2	1.2	13	8.1	5	3.1	161	29.3
2004	112	65.1	37	21.5	2	1.2	15	8.7	6	3.5	172	27.7
Average 1994-2003	98	55.7	57	32.1	6	3.2	12	7.0	3	2.0	176	30.7

1. Other firearms include firearm-like weapons (e.g. nail gun, pellet gun) and unknown type of firearm.

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

Table 8

Relationship type (Victims killed by)	2004		2003 ^r		Average 1994-2003	
	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent	Number of victims	Percent
<i>Family relationship</i>						
<i>Spousal relationship</i>						
Husband (legal)	27	5.9	21	5.0	23	5.1
Husband (common-law)	20	4.3	19	4.6	22	4.9
Husband (separated and divorced)	15	3.3	24	5.8	18	4.0
Wife (legal)	3	0.7	5	1.2	5	1.1
Wife (common-law)	8	1.7	7	1.7	9	2.0
Wife (separated and divorced)	1	0.2	2	0.5	2	0.4
Same-sex spouse (current or former) ²	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.1
Total spousal	74	16.1	78	18.8	79	17.5
<i>Non-spousal relationship</i>						
Father (and step-father)	21	4.6	19	4.6	28	6.2
Mother (and step-mother)	15	3.3	11	2.6	14	3.2
Child (and step-child)	17	3.7	14	3.4	19	4.3
Sibling	11	2.4	6	1.4	9	2.1
Other family relation ³	22	4.8	13	3.1	19	4.2
Total non-spousal	86	18.7	63	15.1	90	19.9
Total family	160	34.7	141	33.9	169	37.4
<i>Acquaintance</i>						
Boyfriend/girlfriend/other intimate (current or former)	22	4.8	11	2.6	18	4.1
Close friend	34	7.4	34	8.2	30	6.6
Neighbour	10	2.2	12	2.9	17	3.7
Authority figure ²	1	0.2	2	0.5	3	0.6
Business relationship (legal)	10	2.2	7	1.7	10	2.3
Criminal relationship ⁴	38	8.2	44	10.6	38	8.3
Casual acquaintance	115	24.9	103	24.8	99	21.8
Total acquaintance	230	49.9	213	51.2	214	47.2
<i>Stranger</i>	71	15.4	58	13.9	67	14.7
<i>Unknown relationship</i>	0	0.0	4	1.0	3	0.8
Total solved homicides	461	100.0	416	100.0	453	100.0
Unsolved homicides	161	...	133	...	120	...
Total homicides	622	...	549	...	573	...

... figures not applicable

^r revised

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


2. Authority figure and same-sex spouse were added to the survey in 1997; therefore, the average is calculated from 1997 to 2003.

3. Other family relation includes nieces, nephews, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, etc. related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption.

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

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

Table 9



Victims of spousal homicide by region

Region	2004		2003 ^r		Average 1994-2003	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number ²	Rate ¹
Atlantic	4	0.31	4	0.31	4	0.35
Quebec	21	0.45	16	0.40	17	0.45
Ontario	21	0.32	21	0.32	26	0.43
Manitoba	6	1.01	4	0.68	3	0.58
Saskatchewan	5	0.98	8	1.57	4	0.76
Alberta	8	0.47	9	0.54	10	0.62
British Columbia	5	0.22	14	0.62	13	0.59
Territories ³	4	...	2	...	2	...
Canada	74	0.43	78	0.46	79	0.49

^r revised

... figures not applicable


1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 spouses (includes legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older). Population estimates were derived from 2004 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2003 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

2. Excludes 6 same sex spouses due to the unavailability of Census data on same-sex couples.

3. Rates are not calculated for the Territories due to small populations.

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

Table 10



Children (<12 years) killed by parents,¹ Canada, 1994-2004


Year	Total number of child victims	Number of child victims killed by parents	Parent-child homicides as a % of all solved homicides	Actual Number of Accused in Parent-Child Homicides			
				Father	Step-Father	Mother	Step-Mother
1994	59	43	8.8	20	4	19	0
1995	53	36	7.4	19	2	12	1
1996	53	41	8.2	20	6	15	0
1997 ^r	65	53	11.4	18	5	23	1
1998	55	47	10.6	22	4	16	1
1999	36	26	6.3	13	3	9	0
2000	39	27	6.5	11	4	9	0
2001	39	30	6.8	12	2	11	1
2002	44	31	6.8	14	4	9	0
2003	33	23	5.5	9	4	10	1
2004	37	27	5.9	8	6	13	0
Average 1994-2003	48	36	7.8	16	4	13	1

^r revised

1. The number of child victims killed by parents does not necessarily equal the actual number of accused parents in parent-child homicides due to incidents involving multiple victims and/or multiple accused.

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

Table 11




Gang-related homicides, by region, 1994-2004

Year	Atlantic	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Territories	Canada	Victims of gang-related homicides as a % of all homicides
1994	1	13	4	2	0	0	4	0	24	4.0
1995	0	13	0	3	0	1	4	0	21	3.6
1996	1	13	3	4	0	2	6	0	29	4.6
1997	1	17	1	2	0	1	6	0	28	4.8
1998	1	31	6	2	2	2	7	0	51	9.1
1999	0	30	5	1	0	4	5	0	45	8.4
2000	4	38	11	3	1	5	10	0	72	13.2
2001	0	23	19	4	1	4	10	0	61	11.0
2002	0	7	19	4	0	9	7	0	46	7.9
2003	1	15	38	6	4	8	12	0	84	15.3
2004	0	18	14	5	4	15	15	0	71	11.4
Average 1994-1997	1	14	2	3	0	1	5	0	26	4.2
Average 1998-2003	1	24	16	3	1	5	9	0	60	10.8

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

Table 12



Victims of homicide and accused persons, by sex, Canada, 1994-2004

Year	Victims					Accused				
	Males		Females		Total	Males		Females		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1994 ¹	396	66.6	199	33.4	595	510	88.4	67	11.6	577
1995	393	66.8	195	33.2	588	501	87.3	73	12.7	574
1996	435	68.5	200	31.5	635	494	88.7	63	11.3	557
1997	381	65.0	205	35.0	586	441	85.5	75	14.5	516
1998	381	68.3	177	31.7	558	464	87.7	65	12.3	529
1999	365	67.8	173	32.2	538	439	90.1	48	9.9	487
2000	397	72.7	149	27.3	546	419	88.2	56	11.8	475
2001	392	70.9	161	29.1	553	440	87.3	64	12.7	504
2002	376	64.6	206	35.4	582	470	89.2	57	10.8	527
2003 ^r	391	71.2	158	28.8	549	464	88.4	61	11.6	525
2004	424	68.2	198	31.8	622	508	89.8	58	10.2	566
Average 1994-2003	391	68.2	182	31.8	573	464	88.1	63	11.9	527

^r revised

1. Total excludes 1 victim in which sex was reported by police as unknown.

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

Table 13



Youth (12-17 years) accused of homicide, Canada, 1994-2004

Year	Number of accused			Rate per 100,000 youth population ¹			Total youth as % of total accused
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1994	53	6	59	4.38	0.52	2.50	10.2
1995	53	15	68	4.33	1.29	2.85	11.8
1996	48	3	51	3.87	0.26	2.11	9.2
1997	44	11	55	3.51	0.93	2.25	10.7
1998	54	3	57	4.27	0.25	2.32	10.8
1999	36	9	45	2.84	0.75	1.82	9.2
2000	38	5	43	2.99	0.42	1.74	9.1
2001	27	5	32	2.11	0.41	1.28	6.4
2002	33	9	42	2.55	0.73	1.67	8.0
2003	48	9	57	3.69	0.73	2.25	10.9
2004	37	3	40	2.84	0.24	1.57	7.1
Average 1994-2003	43	8	51	3.45	0.63	2.08	9.6

1. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.
 1994-1995: Revised intercensal estimates, adjusted for net undercoverage.
 1996-2000: Final intercensal estimates.
 2001-2002: Final postcensal estimates.
 2003: Updated postcensal estimates.
 2004: Preliminary postcensal estimates.

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

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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