Homicide in Canada, 2005

by Mia Dauvergne and Geoffrey Li

Highlights

- Following a substantial increase in 2004, the national homicide rate climbed another 4% in 2005 to 2.04 victims per 100,000 population, marking its highest point in nearly a decade.

- Canadian police services reported 658 homicides in 2005, 34 more than in 2004. The most substantial increases were reported in Ontario (+31) and Alberta (+23). Despite the overall increase, decreases were reported in British Columbia (-15) and Quebec (-11).

- Saskatchewan (4.33) and Manitoba (4.16) recorded the highest provincial rates. There were no homicides recorded in Prince Edward Island for the second year in a row.

- Among Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs), Edmonton reported the highest homicide rate (4.29), and its highest rate since CMA statistics were first available in 1981. There were no homicides reported in Saint John, Sherbrooke (for the third year in a row) and Trois-Rivières. Montréal's rate was its lowest since 1981 when CMA statistics were first available.

- There were 222 victims killed by a firearm in 2005, 49 more than the previous year. This is the third consecutive annual increase in firearm homicides. Handguns accounted for about 6 in 10 firearm homicides.

- Homicide data consistently show that victims are far more likely to be killed by someone they know than by a stranger. Among the 478 solved homicides in 2005, about half were killed by an acquaintance, one third by a family member and almost 20% by a stranger.

- The overall increase in homicides was driven by an increase in incidents committed by strangers and individuals known to each other through illegal activities. At the same time, 2005 marked the fewest parent-young child homicides committed since 1964.

- There were 74 spousal homicides in 2005, 1 fewer than in 2004, resulting in the fourth consecutive annual decline in the spousal homicide rate. Consistent with previous years, the 2005 spousal homicide rate against women was five times higher than the rate against men.

- Gang-related homicides rose to 107 in 2005 (16% of all homicides), 35 more than in 2004. The largest increase occurred in the province of Ontario, where the number of gang-related homicides doubled from last year. Two-thirds (68%) of all gang-related homicides were committed with a firearm, usually a handgun.

- The youth accused of homicide rate reached its highest point in more than a decade. There were 65 youths (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide in 2005, 21 more than the previous year.

- Consistent with previous years, 9 in 10 persons accused of homicide and three-quarters of victims were male in 2005.

- In 2005, two-thirds of adult accused and about one-third of youth accused of homicide had a criminal record in Canada. Half of all adult victims and one-quarter of youth victims also had a criminal record.

Juristat ✸

Introduction

While homicides account for only a relatively small proportion (0.02%) of all crime known to police in Canada each year, homicide is considered to be the most serious of all criminal acts. It is more likely than most other crimes to become known to police and to be the subject of thorough investigation. An indication of the priority given to homicide investigations is the number of police services that have specialized homicide units. Unlike other crimes, the definition of homicide tends to be fairly consistent across nations. There is more international consensus on the nature and meaning of homicide than any other criminal offence. Thus, homicide is important to examine, not only because of its severity, but also because it is believed to be a fairly reliable barometer of violence in society.

There are four types of *Criminal Code* offences that constitute 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.

This *Juristat* examines homicide trends at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels. Information describing 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.

New for 2005

This year the results of a retrospective project to update the clearance status information on all homicides that had occurred in Canada since 1961 (when the Homicide Survey began data collection) are available. As a result, for the first time, this report provides a detailed analysis of homicide clearance rates among the largest police services in Canada. The authors would like to thank Rick Labovitch, Technical Support Officer for the Homicide Survey, for collecting, organizing and capturing all the data pertaining to the retrospective research project. The authors would also like to thank the Canadian police services who participated in this project for their co-operation and assistance with providing updated, and often archived, information.

In addition, a new variable was added this year to collect data on whether female victims were pregnant at the time of the homicide. The initial results for this variable are now available in this report.

General trends

Canadian police services reported 658 homicides in 2005, 34 more than in 2004. The 2005 overall homicide rate reached 2.04 victims per 100,000 population, a 4% increase over the previous year and the first time in nearly a decade that the rate exceeded 2.0 victims. The increase in homicide coincides with increases in the rates of other serious violent offences, including attempted murder (+14%), aggravated assault (+10%) and robbery (+3%) (Gannon, 2006).

---

1. For definitions of homicide offences, 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 will not be reflected in this report.
2. For more information on the Homicide Survey, see the Methodology section at the end of this report.

Despite the increase in 2005, homicides continued to comprise a small proportion of all violent crime known to police (0.2%). By comparison, in 2005, there were 772 attempted murders, about 23,000 sexual assaults and over 235,000 other assaults (Gannon, 2006).

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 to 2005

Rate per 100,000 population
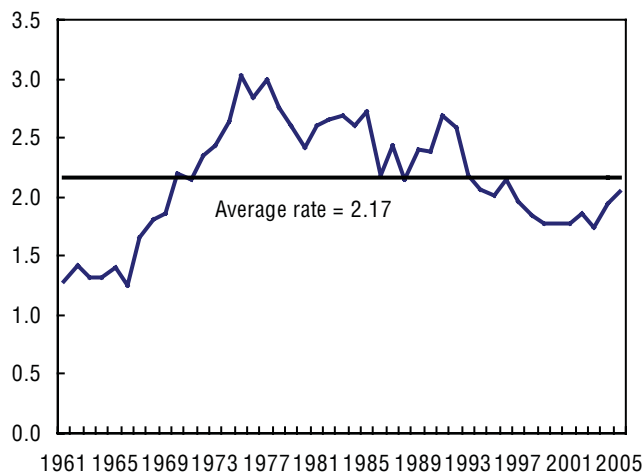
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Among the 623 incidents (involving 658 victims)[3] in 2005, police classified about half (45%) of all incidents as first degree murder, another 44% as second degree murder and 11% as manslaughter. There were 2 incidents of infanticide. These proportions have remained relatively consistent for more than a decade.

International comparisons

The homicide rate in Canada is about 3 times lower than in the United States[4], despite the declining rate in the US in recent years. When comparing to other countries, it was found that Canada's 2005 homicide rate was close to that of New Zealand (Text table).[5] While also lower than Sweden and Scotland, the rate in Canada was higher than the rates in many other countries such as England and Wales, Denmark, and Japan.

Text table

Homicide rates for selected countries, 2005

Country	Rate per 100,000 population
Ukraine	7.04
Turkey	6.23
United States	5.63
Scotland[1]	2.69
Sweden	2.64
Finland	2.17
Canada	**2.04**
New Zealand	2.00
Armenia	1.71
Northern Ireland[2]	1.68
Hungary	1.64
France	1.59
Australia	1.45
England & Wales[2]	1.43
Germany	0.98
Denmark	0.98
Japan	0.64
Hong Kong	0.49
Singapore	0.48

1. figures reflect 2004-05 data
2. figures reflect 2005-06 data
Source: National Central Bureau - Interpol Ottawa, and national statisitical office websites.

Geographical patterns

Homicide rates highest in the west

Historically, homicide rates have generally been higher in the western provinces than in the east (Table 2). The 2005 provincial distribution of homicides mirrored this pattern observed in previous years.

Three of the four western provinces, Saskatchewan (4.33), Manitoba (4.16) and Alberta (3.35), recorded the highest rates among the ten provinces in 2005 (Figure 2). The rate in Saskatchewan reached its highest point in almost three decades. British Columbia was the only western province to report a decline from 2004.

While the rates in Newfoundland and Labrador (1.74) and New Brunswick (1.20) increased from 2004, they remained below the national average of 2.04. Nova Scotia reported a rate of 2.13, the fourth highest among all the provinces. There were no homicides in Prince Edward Island for the second year in a row.

The 2005 homicide rate in Quebec decreased from 2004 and remained well below the national average. While the rate in

---

3. As is the case every year, the incident count is lower than the victim count due to incidents involving multiple victims.
4. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2006). "Crime in the United States – 2005". U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C.
5. International data are based upon the most recent figures available from the National Central Bureau – Interpol Ottawa, and the national statistical offices of selected countries.

Ontario was its highest in more than ten years, it was also below the rate for Canada as a whole.

Given the relatively small populations in the territories, the rates in Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut tend to fluctuate considerably from year to year. Although they consistently report a low number of homicides, in 2005, the rates in Yukon (3.23) and Nunavut (6.67) were well above the national average. There were no homicides reported in the Northwest Territories for the first time since 1968.

Figure 2

Homicide rates by province, 2005

Rate per 100,000 population

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

Edmonton reports its highest homicide rate, Montréal its lowest since 1981

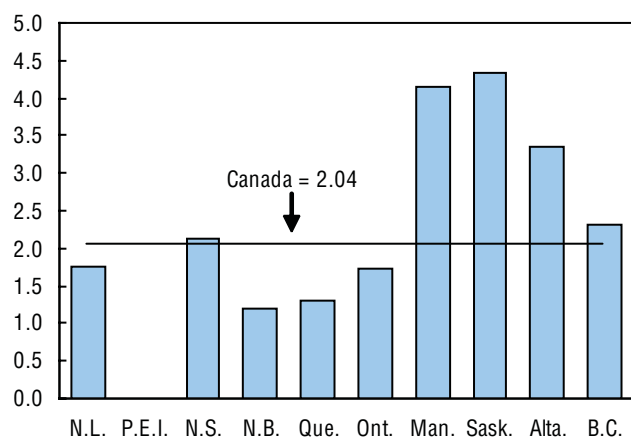Violent crime, and particularly homicide, is often perceived to be a phenomenon of large urban areas. However, historical Canadian data do not support this perception, as census metropolitan areas[6] (CMAs) typically report a homicide rate similar to that in non-CMAs (areas with populations less than 100,000). In 2005, non-CMAs reported a combined rate (2.07) virtually the same as Canada's CMAs as a whole (2.02).

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, and 2005 was no exception, as the combined rate in the larger CMAs (2.08) was higher than the smaller CMAs (1.85).

As a group, the nine largest CMAs recorded 10 more homicides in 2005 than in 2004. Edmonton reported the highest rate among all CMAs and its highest rate since CMA statistics were

first collected in 1981. The 2005 rates in Toronto (Canada's largest CMA) and Calgary also increased, reaching their highest points in more than a decade. Only Montréal, Québec and Winnipeg (whose rate peaked in 2004) reported declines. With 48 homicides, the rate in Montréal (1.31) was its lowest since 1981.

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.

With 90 homicides, these smaller CMAs reported 17 more homicides in 2005 than in 2004. London and St. Catharines-Niagara showed the greatest increase in the number of homicides, while Oshawa had the greatest decrease. Although lower than last year, Regina (3.97) had the highest rate among the smaller CMAs. There were no homicides in Sherbrooke (for the third year in a row), Saint John and Trois-Rivières.

Non-CMAs reported 231 homicides in 2005, 7 more than in 2004, but lower than the previous ten-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 police services that patrol inner city areas compared to the corresponding CMA areas that include suburban and/or rural areas.

Methods used to commit homicide

Shooting most common method used to commit homicide in 2005

Over the years, the most common method used to commit homicide has varied between stabbings and shootings (Table 5, Figure 3). In 2005, the most common method used was shootings, accounting for one-third (34%) of all homicides.

Although the proportion remained relatively stable compared to previous years, the rate of firearm homicides increased for the third year in a row to 0.69 per 100,000 population. This rate is virtually the same as it was 20 years ago. However, the longer-term trend in the use of firearms to commit homicide has seen a general decline since the mid-1970s, similar to the trend in total homicides.

6. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (at least 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 forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a single CMA.

Firearm-related homicides account for less than 1 in 5 fatalities involving firearms. According to 2003 health statistics (the latest year for which figures are available), there were a total of 792 deaths in Canada that involved a firearm. Among these, more than three-quarters (78%) were suicides, 17% homicides and 3% accidental discharges of a firearm. The remaining 2% were due to legal intervention (i.e. police shooting) or undetermined intent (Statistics Canada, 2003).

While a third of the homicides in 2005 were by use of a firearm, 30% of homicide victims were stabbed to death, 22% were beaten, and 7% were strangled or suffocated. Other causes of death were less common – Shaken Baby Syndrome, fire (e.g., smoke inhalation or burns), and by motor vehicle.

Figure 3

Most common methods used to commit homicide, Canada, 1975 to 2005

percent
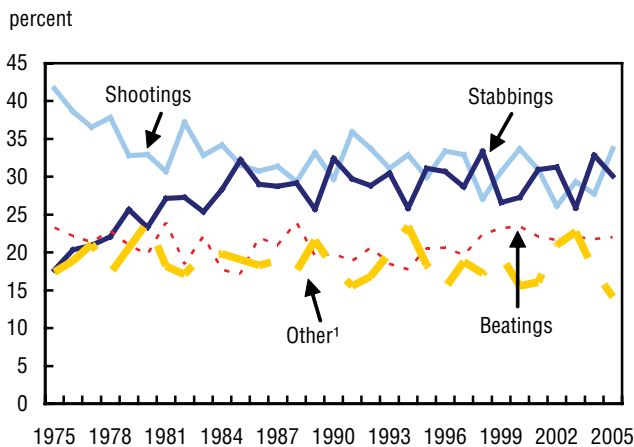
1. Other includes strangulation, poisoning, deaths caused by fire (smoke inhalation), exposure/hypothermia, Shaken Baby Syndrome, deaths caused by vehicles, etc.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Handguns most common type of firearm used in homicides

The type of firearm used during the commission of homicides has changed over the past three decades. Prior to 1990, rifles/shotguns and sawed-off rifle/shotguns were used far more frequently than handguns but, beginning in the early 1990s, the proportions began to reverse. In 2005, handguns accounted for 58% of all firearm-related homicides whereas rifles/shotguns and sawed-off rifle/shotguns accounted for 30% (Table 7). The remaining 12% were committed with a fully automatic firearm, a firearm-like weapon, or a firearm of unknown type.

As with homicide rates in general, the highest firearm-related homicide rates in 2005 were reported in the western provinces. The rate of firearm homicides increased in all regions in 2005 except for Manitoba, British Columbia and the territories.

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"[7] by police either because the firearm was not recovered or because investigations were on-going. Between 1997 and 2005 in Canada, firearm-related information on registration status, licensing and ownership was reported as unknown by police among more than half of all homicides. The following analysis refers only to homicides where firearm registration, ownership and licensing information were known.

Among the homicides which occurred between 1997 and 2005 where detailed firearm information was known, 70% 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 51% of these homicides, compared to 13% that were owned by victims. For the remaining homicides, someone other than the accused or the victim owned the firearm (36%).

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 (Mouzos, 2000).

Firearm recovery

In 2005, the Homicide Survey began asking police service respondents to indicate whether or not the firearm used in the commission of a homicide had been recovered by police during the course of their investigation. Among the 222 shootings in 2005, 40% of all guns were recovered by police and 60% were not recovered (percentages exclude 29 firearms for which police reported the recovery status as unknown). Among the 78 firearms that were recovered by police in 2005, 23 were reported as having been registered with the Canadian Firearms Registry and 42 were reported as not registered. The registration status was unknown for the remaining 13 firearms.

---

7. Among the 1,572 firearm-related homicides between 1997 and 2005, police reported registration status as unknown for 894 homicides, licensing information as unknown for 875 homicides and ownership information as unknown for 970 homicides.

Figure 4

Rate of firearm homicides, Canada, 1975 to 2005

Rate per 100,000 population
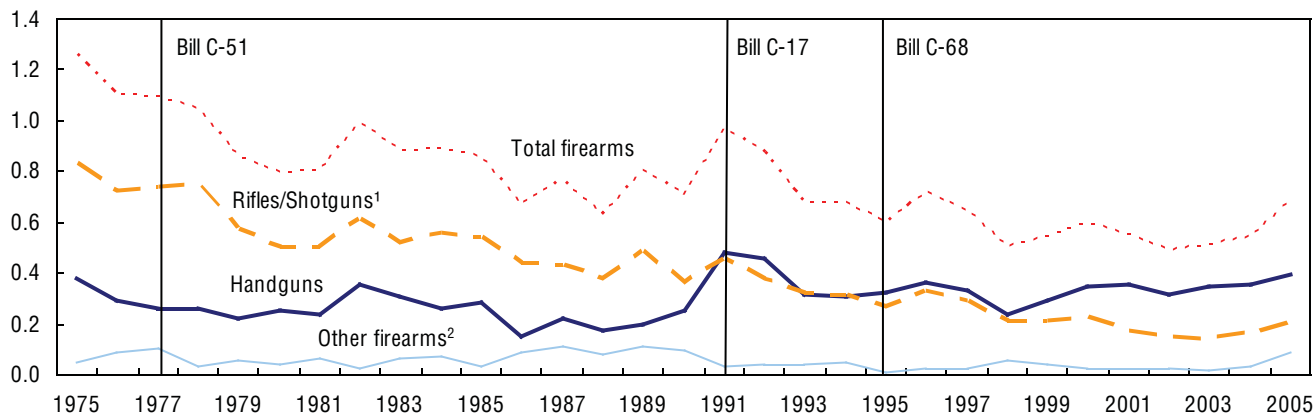
1. Includes sawed-off rifles/shotguns.
2. Includes firearm-like weapons (e.g. nail gun, pellet gun) and unknown type of firearm.
Note: The information is not intended to imply a causal relationship between gun-control legislation and homicide rates. See Firearm Legislation textbox for details of Bills.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

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 2005, indicating where legislative changes have been enacted. The information is not intended to imply a causal relationship between gun control legislation and homicide rates.

Accused-victim relationship

Most victims knew their killer

Homicide data consistently indicate that victims are far more likely to be killed by someone they know than by a stranger.[8] Among solved homicides in 2005, four out of five victims knew their killer. Half (49%) of the victims were killed by an acquaintance (i.e. non-family), another one-third (33%) were killed by a family member and 18% of victims were killed by strangers (Table 8). The rate at which victims were killed by strangers, however, has increased in each of the two years since the 30-year low in 2003 (Figure 5).

Of those killed by an acquaintance, half (52%) of the 233 victims knew their perpetrator on a casual basis. One-quarter (25%) were killed by someone with whom they had a criminal relationship (e.g. prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients), a 41% increase over 2004.

Figure 5

Homicides by accused-victim relationship, Canada, 1975 to 2005

Rate per 100,000 population
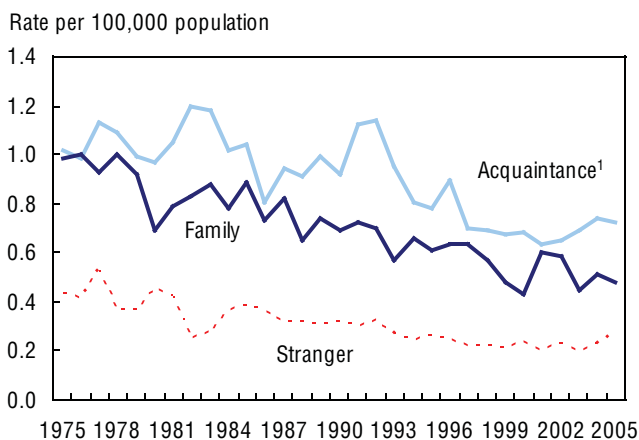
1. Includes criminal relationships.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Homicides of children under 12 committed by parents at 40-year low

Family-related homicides are those that are committed by a spouse (current or former), parent, child, sibling or other person related to the victim by blood, marriage or adoption.[9] In 2005, the number of family-related homicides was quite similar to that reported in 2004. The most notable difference occurred in the number of parents who were accused of killing their young children. In 2005, there were 20 victims killed by a parent, 13 of whom were under the age of 12 years, compared to 2004, where 37 victims were killed by a parent, 27 of whom were under the age of 12 (Table 10). The 13 young victims killed by a parent was substantially lower than the previous 10-year average of 34 and the lowest total since 1964.

Homicide during pregnancy

Studies in the United States have identified homicide to be a leading cause of injury-related death among pregnant women and new mothers (Chang et al., 2005; Krulewitch, C. et al., 2001). Several factors have been associated with an increased risk for violence and homicide during pregnancy, including being young (20 years or less) and prior episodes of interpersonal violence during the pregnancy (Campbell, Oliver & Bullock, 1998).

In 2005, Canada became one of only a handful of countries to begin collecting national data on whether female victims were pregnant at the time of the homicide. Police reported that six female victims were pregnant at the time of the homicide. Two of the six women were under the age of 20 years. Four of the six victims were killed by their intimate partner (one remains unsolved) and all but one victim was stabbed to death.

It is important to note that the incidence of homicide against pregnant women may be under-reported, particularly among women who may be newly pregnant, as an autopsy may not necessarily include an examination of the woman's uterus. Additionally, this information was not provided for 24 female victims of child-bearing age.

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 2005, there were 74 spousal homicides, slightly lower than the previous year, resulting in the fourth consecutive annual decline in the spousal homicide rate. Since the mid 1970s, spousal homicide rates have been generally declining.

Despite this decrease, spousal homicides accounted for about 16% of all solved homicides and almost half (47%) of all family homicides. As is typically the case, women were much more likely than men to be killed by their spouse – the 2005 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).[10]

In 2005, there were no same-sex spousal homicides; since 1997 when this information was first collected, there have been six same-sex spousal homicides.

As with the homicide rate in general, spousal homicide tends to be lower in the eastern provinces than in the western provinces. In 2005, the highest rates were recorded in Manitoba (0.84) and Alberta (0.75) (Table 9). The rate in Quebec (0.30) was the lowest since this information became available in 1974. It should be noted that the small number of spousal homicides can lead to large year-to-year fluctuations in the rate.

---

8. 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).
9. For more information on family-related homicides, including spousal homicides, see Ogrodnik, L. (2006). *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2006.* Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE, Statistics Canada: Ottawa.
10. Rates are calculated per 100,000 spouses age 15 years and older.

Figure 6

Spousal homicide rate[1], Canada, 1975 to 2005

Rate per 100,000 spouses
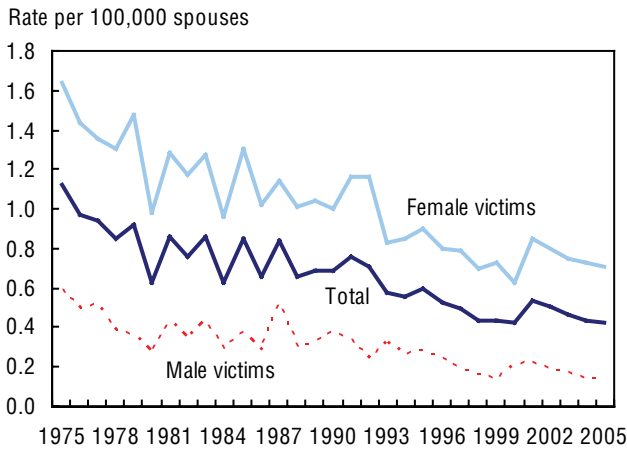
1. Spouses include legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes 6 same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of Census data on same-sex couples.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

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 (Mihorean, 2005). Results from the Homicide Survey lend support to this finding. In 2005, the homicide rate against persons living in common-law relationships (1.49 per 100,000 common-law persons) was almost 6 times higher than the rate for those living in legal marriages (0.26 per 100,000 married persons). Higher spousal homicide rates among common-law relationships versus married unions held true for both male (0.76 and 0.03 respectively) and female victims (2.23 and 0.53 respectively).[11]

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 2005, police reported a history of family violence among 61% of spousal homicides, similar to the proportion found in earlier years. Prior violence was more often reported when the spousal victim was male (83%) than female (56%).[12]

Following an increase in 2004, homicides involving other types of intimate partner relationships (e.g. current or former boyfriends and girlfriends) decreased in 2005. Among solved homicides of victims 15 years and older, more than half (58%) of all females were killed by someone with whom they had an intimate relationship at some point (either through marriage or dating) compared to 10% 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 2005, there were 33 homicides perpetrated against children who were less than 12 years of age, slightly lower than in 2004 and much lower than the previous 10-year average of 45 (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 11 infants killed in 2005 – approximately 3.26 out of every 100,000 infants.

Consistent with previous years, most solved homicides committed against children in 2005 were perpetrated by parents. Of the 22 solved homicides involving victims less than 12 years of age, 13 (or 59%) were killed by their parent or step-parent, four were committed by another family member, four by a family friend, caregiver or acquaintance, and one by a stranger.

Characteristics of homicide incidents

Gang-related homicides increase in 2005

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. Almost two-thirds of gang-related homicides were motivated by the "settling of accounts". Homicides of innocent bystanders who are killed as a result of gang-related activity are also considered to be gang-related.

Over the past decade, the number of homicides involving gangs reported by police has steadily increased (Table 11). In 2005, there were 107 homicides (or 16% of all homicides) in which police determined or suspected the involvement of gang-related activity, up from 72 confirmed gang homicides in 2004. This increase may be partially due to a revision that was made to the Homicide Survey in 2005 to identify those homicides in which gang-related activity was "suspected" by police, and not just "determined". In past years, it is not known if "suspected" homicides were included in the totals.

The biggest increase occurred in the province of Ontario, where the number of gang-related homicides doubled from 14 in 2004 to 31 in 2005. Most of the increase in Ontario was in Toronto. Gang-related homicides occurred predominantly in the CMAs of Toronto (23), Edmonton (16), Montréal (15), and Calgary (9). Only 15 gang-related homicides occurred in non-CMAs. 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. Over two-thirds (69%) of gang-related homicides were committed with a firearm, usually a handgun, compared to just over one-quarter (27%) of non-gang-related killings.

---

11. Spousal homicide rates by separated and divorced relationships were not calculated as the available population estimates were not fully consistent with the corresponding relationship types reported by police.
12. 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.

Multiple-victim incidents similar to previous 10-year average

As is the case every year, the vast majority of homicide incidents in 2005 involved one victim (594 or 95%). However, there were 29 multiple-victim incidents, similar to the previous 10-year average.

Multiple-victim incidents involve family members more often than single-victim incidents. Of all solved multiple-victim incidents in 2005, 42% were committed by family members, 31% by strangers, and 26% by acquaintances[13]. By comparison, most single-victim homicides were committed by acquaintances (48%) and family members (32%), with strangers (17%) and other intimate relationships (4%) being responsible for the remainder. Among solved multiple-victim incidents, virtually all accused persons (23 of 24) were male.

Murder-suicides usually family-related

About 6% of all incidents culminate in the suicide of the accused person. In 2005, there were 35 murder-suicide incidents (involving 42 victims), slightly lower than the previous 10-year average of 38. As in previous years, most murder-suicides in 2005 involved family members (e.g., spouse, parent) or intimate partner (current or former) relationships (86%), and most accused persons (34 of 35) were male.

Mental illness is often reported among persons who commit murder-suicide. In 2005, police suspected the presence of a mental disorder (e.g. depression) among almost half (46%) of all persons accused of murder-suicide.

Most homicides occur in a private residence

Similar to previous years, almost two-thirds (61%) of homicide incidents in 2005 occurred in a private residence. Among these incidents, 38% occurred in the victim's home, 35% occurred in a residence that was jointly occupied by both the victim and the accused, 14% occupied by neither victim or accused, and 12% occupied by the accused. The remaining incidents were distributed as follows: 26% in an open area (parking lot, street or open field); 6% in a commercial place (convenience store, gas station, bar or restaurant); 2% in a privately owned vehicle or a taxi; and 2% in a public institution (high school, hospital or correctional institution).

Not surprisingly, the vast majority of family-related incidents (94%) occurred in a private residence, most commonly the home of both the victim and the accused.

Characteristics of victims and accused

Males accounted for the majority of victims and accused persons

Consistent with previous years, 9 in 10 persons accused of homicide were male in 2005 (Table 12). The rate of accused males peaked at 18 to 24 years of age and steadily declined with increasing age. While the rate for female accused also peaked at 18 to 24 years of age, there was also a second, less pronounced peak, in the 30 to 39 age range before declining sharply later in life (Figure 7).

Almost three-quarters (73%) of homicide victims in 2005 were male – there were 480 male victims and 178 female victims. The victimization rate for males peaked at 25 to 29 years of age and steadily declined with increasing age. On the other hand, female victimization rates are highest between 18 to 39 years of age, with the peak at 30 to 39 years of age. Female victimization rates decline with age after 40, except later in life where there is a slight increase at 60+ years of age (Figure 8).

13. Includes neighbours, casual acquaintances and criminal relationships.

Figure 7

Accused homicide rates by age group and sex, Canada, 2005

Rate per 100,000 population

Age	Males	Females
12 to 17	4.3	0.7
18 to 24	12.7	1.2
25 to 29	6.1	0.6
30 to 39	4.0	0.8
40 to 49	2.5	0.2
50 to 59	1.3	0.1
60+	1.0	0.0
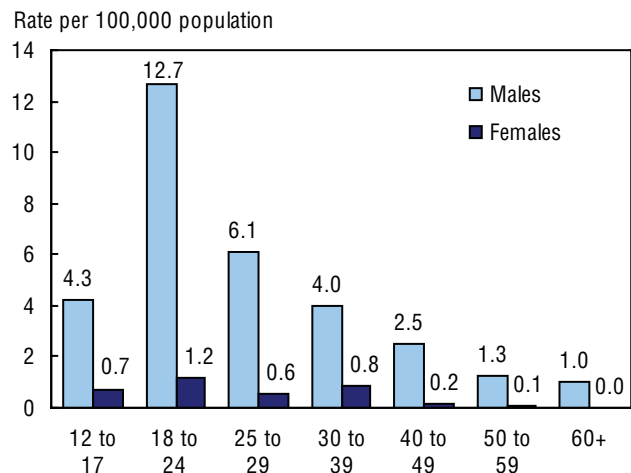
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Figure 8

Victim homicide rates by age group and sex, Canada, 2005
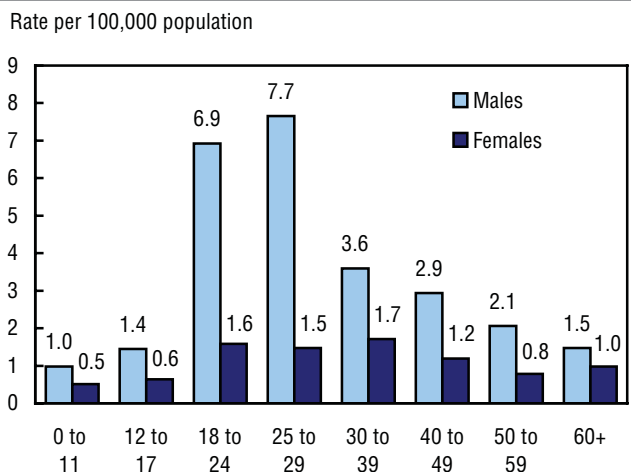
Rate per 100,000 population

Age	Males	Females
0 to 11	1.0	0.5
12 to 17	1.4	0.6
18 to 24	6.9	1.6
25 to 29	7.7	1.5
30 to 39	3.6	1.7
40 to 49	2.9	1.2
50 to 59	2.1	0.8
60+	1.5	1.0

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

Homicide clearance rates[1]

Background

Each year, the Homicide Survey collects information on the clearance status (i.e. solved by police or unsolved) of every homicide that occurs in Canada. However, because of the complex and time-consuming nature of many homicide investigations, some incidents are solved only after they have been reported to the Homicide Survey. This more up-to-date information is not necessarily conveyed to the Homicide Survey resulting in historical police service clearance rates for homicides being continually under-estimated.

Methodology

In order to accurately examine police service clearance rates for homicide over time, a retrospective project was undertaken to update the clearance status information on all unsolved homicides that had occurred in Canada since 1961 (when the Homicide Survey began data collection). Every police service in Canada that had reported at least one unsolved homicide since that time was contacted to verify the accuracy of information. In total, 89 different police services were asked to update their information on 3,875 homicides that had occurred since 1961. In total, the clearance status of 427 (or 11%) of these previously unsolved homicides was updated to solved.

Between 1961 and 1973, homicide clearance rates are only available by province and territory. Starting in 1974, data according to police service became available. Analysis by individual police service will look at data between 1976 and 2005 to allow for an even 30-year timeframe.

Geographical variation

Overall, among the approximately 24,000 homicides that have occurred in Canada since recording began in 1961, 85% have been solved by police. Homicide clearance rates were at their highest, hovering around 90%, during the early and mid-1960s (when the homicide rate was at its lowest). For the next three decades the homicide clearance rate remained relatively stable; then, beginning in the mid-1990s the rate began to gradually decline. By 2005, the homicide clearance rate was 73%. It is important to keep in mind, however, that a somewhat lower rate is expected in more recent years given that police have had less time to solve these homicides.

Between 1976 and 2005,[2] the highest clearance rates for homicide were reported in the provinces and territories reporting a relatively low number of homicides; namely, the Northwest Territories (98%) and Prince Edward Island (97%). Over the same 30-year period, clearance rates for homicide were lowest in Quebec (74%). Low clearance rates were seen among several of Quebec's major municipal police services including Montréal (65%), Laval (67%), and Longueuil (74%), all of whom reported some of the lowest clearance rates in the country. Quebec's lower clearance rates may in part be a result of the province having a high proportion of shootings and victims involved in illegal activities. Homicides involving these characteristics tend to be less likely to be solved. For more information on how type of weapon and victim's involvement in illegal activities affect clearance rates please see the subsequent "Characteristics of unsolved homicides" section in this text box. In addition to the three police services already mentioned in Quebec, some of the lowest clearance rates were also found in the larger cities, such as Toronto and Vancouver.

Among the largest police services, London Police Service reported the highest overall clearance rate, with 98% of all homicides having been solved between 1976 and 2005. This rate was followed closely by Greater Sudbury and Niagara Regional.

Text box figure

Homicide clearance rates by province and territory, 1976 to 2005

Percentage of solved homicides

Canada = 83.9

Province/Territory	Rate
N.L.	92.9
P.E.I.	96.6
N.S.	89.2
N.B.	89.4
Que.	73.7
Ont.	87.7
Man.	94.1
Sask.	93.9
Alta.	89.7
B.C.	79.7
Y.T.	93.7
N.W.T.[1]	98.1
Nvt.[2]	84.2
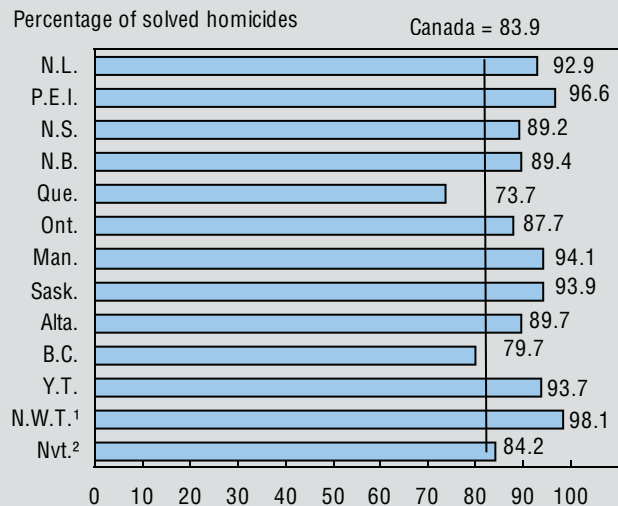
1. Includes Nunavut before 1999.
2. Clearance rate for Nunavut is from 1999 to 2005.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Time taken to solve homicides

Generally, most homicides that are solved by police are done so fairly quickly. Among solved homicides between 1991 and 2005[3], 70% were solved within a week and another 25% within a year. Only 5% were solved by police a year or more following the date of the incident.

There is some variation in the average length of time taken to solve a homicide depending on the relationship between the accused and the victim. Excluding homicides committed by parents, 81% of the 1,998 homicides perpetrated by a family member (such as a spouse, sibling, son, daughter or extended family member) were solved within a week. However, those committed by parents tended to take longer for police to solve (65% were solved within a week).

Homicides committed by and against a criminal associate were the least likely to be solved quickly – less than half (45%) were solved with a week. On average, this type of homicide took police approximately six and a half months to solve.

Homicides committed by strangers also tended to take police longer to solve compared to homicides in which the accused person was known to the victim. On average, homicides committed by strangers were solved by police a little over four months after the date of the incident.

1. Clearance rates are often used as a tool to measure police service effectiveness. However, it is important to keep in mind that clearance rates are but one method used to evaluate police performance.
2. Homicide clearance rates are not available according to police service prior to 1974. In order to examine an even 30-year period, this analysis begins in 1976.
3. Clearance date is not always available prior to 1991, therefore the average time taken to solve a homicide cannot be calculated prior to this date.

Text table 1

Clearance rates for police services policing over 150,000 population, 1976 to 2005

Police service	Total homicides	Clearance rate 1976-2005
	number	%
London	139	97.8
Greater Sudbury	99	96.0
Niagara Regional	216	95.4
Durham Regional	114	94.7
Winnipeg	573	94.4
Peel Regional	240	94.2
St. John's (RNC*)	49	93.9
Regina	186	93.5
Ottawa	319	92.8
OPP	1,042	91.2
Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)	4,713	89.0
Windsor	181	90.6
Waterloo	148	90.5
Hamilton	332	90.4
Calgary	450	89.6
Saskatoon	152	89.5
Halton Regional	69	87.0
Edmonton	657	86.0
Gatineau-Métro	89	85.4
Québec	244	81.6
Sûrité du Québec	1,245	80.3
Halifax	157	80.3
Toronto	1,748	78.4
York Regional	159	75.5
Longueuil	185	74.1
Vancouver	772	69.9
Laval	173	67.1
Montréal	2,003	65.4

* Royal Newfoundland Constabulary
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Characteristics of unsolved homicides

The characteristics of solved and unsolved homicides tend to differ. For example, unsolved homicides were more likely than solved homicides to involve a firearm. Between 1991 and 2005, 54% of all unsolved homicides were committed with a firearm compared to 27% of solved homicides. Firearm-related homicides were more likely to be solved when the type of weapon used was a rifle or shotgun compared to when the weapon used was a fully automatic firearm or a handgun.

Unsolved homicides were also more likely than solved homicides to involve illegal activities. Over the past 15 years, 37% of unsolved homicides were committed against victims who were involved in illegal activities (e.g. gangs, drugs, prostitution) compared to 9% of solved homicides.

While controlling for other factors (i.e. victim's age, gender and marital status as well as the location, time and number of victims killed in the incident), homicides involving firearms were found to be 2.9 times more likely to be unsolved compared to homicides involving other types of weapons. Homicides against victims who were involved in illegal activities were also 3.5 times more likely to be unsolved compared to homicides in which the victim was legally employed or not in the workforce.

When looking at individual police services, those with the highest proportion of homicides involving shootings and illegal activities tend to report the lowest homicide clearance rates. For example, three of Canada's four largest municipal police services, Toronto, Montréal, and York not only reported some of the lower clearance rates, but they also reported the highest proportion of homicides involving shootings and illegal activities.

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 2005, almost two-thirds (64%) of adults (18 years or older) accused of homicide had a Canadian criminal record. Among those adults with a criminal history, 62% had a prior conviction for a violent offence: 6 for homicide, 53 for robbery and 145 for another type of violent offence (such as assault).

As with adults, a substantial proportion of youth accused had a criminal past. Among the 65 youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide in 2005, more than one-third (37%) had a criminal history. About half (54%) of all youth with a criminal history had a conviction for a violent offence (none of which were for homicide). 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 (52%) of all adult homicide victims (18

years or older) had a Canadian criminal record. Half of these victims had a prior violent conviction: 4 for homicide, 32 for robbery and 116 for other violent offences. Of the 27 youth victims (12 to 17 years), seven were reported by police to have a prior criminal conviction.

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 23% of persons accused of committing homicide in 2005. It is important to note that these data exclude about 50% of victims and accused persons where police reported Aboriginal origin as unknown. In accordance with internal guidelines, some police services (such as the RCMP and the Toronto Police Service) do not report the Aboriginal origin of victims and accused persons to the Homicide Survey.[14]

14. For further information on Aboriginal people as victims and accused persons, see Brzozowski, J., Taylor-Butts, A., and S. Johnson. (2006). "Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada." *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-XIE. Vol. 26, No. 3. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Youth Homicide

Homicides committed by youth increase in 2005

There were 65 youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide in 2005, 21 more than the previous year (Table 13). In 2005, the rate of youth accused reached its highest point in more than a decade (Figure 9). The increase in the number of youth accused of homicide in 2005 is in contrast to the findings for youth crime overall which decreased by 6%, including violent crime (-2%) (Gannon, 2006).

Among the 65 youth accused, 86% were males, which is the same as the previous 10-year average proportion (Table 13).

Figure 9

Youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide, Canada, 1975 to 2005

Rate per 100,000 youth
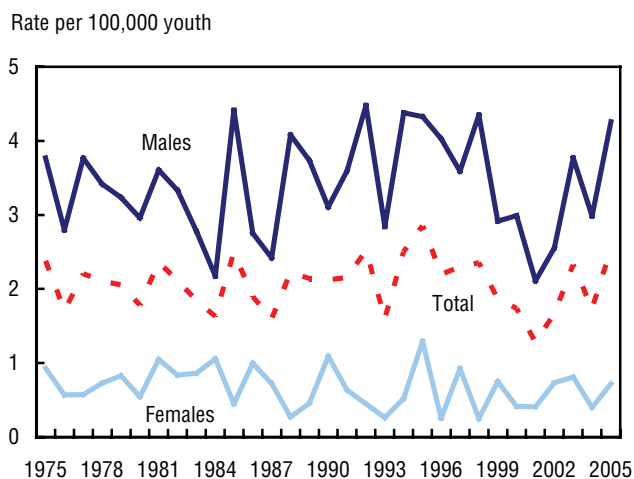
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Most homicides are committed by lone accused; however, homicides committed by youth often involve more than one accused. Of the 51 incidents involving youth, more than half were committed by two or more individuals. Comparatively, of the 403 solved incidents committed solely by adults, 14% involved two or more accused.

In 2005, incidents involving youth were more likely to involve the killing of strangers (43%) than incidents with only adult accused (14%). As is the case historically, youth were more likely to kill other youth and young adults. Among solved homicides committed by youth in 2005, over half (56%) of victims were between 12 and 24 years of age compared to 20% of victims killed by adults.

Precipitating factors

Alcohol and/or drug consumption often associated with homicides

Alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants are known to play a role in the commission of many crimes including homicide (Parker and Auerhahn, 1999). Among cases where it was known whether alcohol or drugs were a factor, police reported that the majority of accused persons (73%) and victims (57%) had consumed an intoxicant at the time of the homicide. Males were more likely than females to have used alcohol and/or drugs as both victims and accused persons (66% versus 34% for victims and 74% versus 65% for accused).

One in eight accused suspected to have a mental disorder

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 caution.

Police suspected the presence of a mental or developmental disorder among 13% of accused persons in 2005, similar to the percentage reported each year since 1997. Consistent with previous years, police suspected the presence of a mental disorder among female accused more often than male accused.

Nearly half of all homicide incidents occurred during another offence

Nearly half (45%) of the homicide incidents in 2005 (for which data were available) occurred during the commission of another offence that led to the homicide. Of these 224 incidents, the majority (164) were committed as a result of a violent offence: most commonly during an assault (97), or during a personal or commercial robbery (38).

At-risk occupations

Five police officers killed in 2005

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 their occupations, there are certain people who may be at greater risk of being victims of 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 was killed because of a domestic dispute that was not related to his/her work, 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 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".

Since 1961, there have been 125 police officers killed in the line of duty (an average of almost 3 per year), including five in 2005. By comparison, preliminary figures for 2005 from the United States, with a population about eight times greater than Canada's, reported 55 police officers feloniously killed in the line of duty (U.S. Department of Justice, 2006). There were 10 other homicides that occurred as a result of the victim's legal employment, including taxi drivers and convenience store/gas station attendants.

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 2005, police reported a total of nine prostitutes killed, similar to the average number reported each year prior to the discovery of the homicides in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia.[15] Police were able to establish that three of the prostitutes were killed as a direct result of their profession, but were unable to make this determination for the other six.

There were another 139 homicides committed against persons working in other types of illegal "occupations" such as drug dealers, members of an organized crime group or a gang, 37 more than 2004.

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, 1997, and again in 2005, in an effort to respond to changing information needs, the Homicide 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.

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.

---

15. 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.

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.

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).

Table 1

Number of homicides, by province/territory, 1961 to 2005[1]

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	88	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	5	1	8	8	99	178	43	41	64	94	1	4	3	549
2004[r]	2	0	14	7	111	187	50	39	86	113	7	4	4	624
2005	9	0	20	9	100	218	49	43	109	98	1	0	2	658

… 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 rates[1], by province/territory, 1961 to 2005

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	2.34	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	4.12	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	2.17	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	2.79	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	0.37	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	1.06	1.32	1.45	3.70	4.12	2.03	2.26	3.27	9.47	10.29	1.73	-6.6
2004[r]	0.39	0.00	1.49	0.93	1.47	1.51	4.27	3.92	2.68	2.69	22.69	9.33	13.48	1.95	12.6
2005	1.74	0.00	2.13	1.20	1.32	1.74	4.16	4.33	3.35	2.30	3.23	0.00	6.67	2.04	4.5

… figures not applicable
[r] revised
1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.
    1961 to 1970: Final intercensal estimates.
    1971 to 1995: Revised intercensal from 1971 to 1995.
    1996 to 2000: Final intercensal estimates.
    2001/2002: Final postcensal estimates.
    2003/2004: Updated postcensal estimates.
    2005: 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] (CMA)	2005[2]			2004[3r]			Average 1995 to 2004	
	Population[4]	Number of victims	Rate[5]	Population[4]	Number of victims	Rate[5]	Number of victims	Rate[5]
500,000+ population								
Toronto	5,306,912	104	1.96	5,218,847	94	1.80	81	1.71
Montréal[6]	3,675,155	48	1.31	3,632,340	63	1.73	70	2.02
Vancouver[7]	2,156,509	62	2.88	2,131,960	57	2.67	53	2.63
Calgary	1,061,524	26	2.45	1,049,678	20	1.91	15	1.57
Edmonton[6]	1,024,946	44	4.29	1,010,938	34	3.36	24	2.49
Ottawa[8]	876,798	11	1.25	873,316	10	1.15	10	1.19
Québec	720,787	5	0.69	715,335	6	0.84	8	1.17
Winnipeg	698,791	26	3.72	694,593	34	4.89	21	3.08
Hamilton[9]	697,239	11	1.58	691,112	9	1.30	11	1.74
Total	**16,218,661**	**337**	**2.08**	**16,018,119**	**327**	**2.04**	**293**	**1.96**
100,000 to less than 500,000 population								
Kitchener	485,248	7	1.44	477,885	6	1.26	5	1.01
London	471,033	14	2.97	467,918	5	1.07	5	1.03
St. Catharines-Niagara	434,347	14	3.22	432,565	7	1.62	6	1.35
Halifax	380,844	10	2.63	379,248	9	2.37	7	1.99
Victoria	336,030	2	0.60	332,779	5	1.50	6	1.94
Oshawa	333,617	1	0.30	326,629	6	1.84	2	0.81
Windsor	333,163	5	1.50	331,308	4	1.21	6	1.97
Gatineau[10]	284,963	3	1.05	281,229	1	0.36	4	1.33
Saskatoon	244,826	9	3.68	243,144	8	3.29	6	2.49
Regina	201,435	8	3.97	200,634	10	4.98	6	3.21
St. John's	181,527	2	1.10	179,334	1	0.56	2	1.14
Abbotsford[11]	162,907	4	2.46	161,516	7	4.33	5	3.03
Greater Sudbury	160,912	2	1.24	160,932	0	0.00	3	1.59
Kingston[11,12]	154,389	5	3.24	154,168	0	0.00	3	1.64
Sherbrooke	148,225	0	0.00	147,132	0	0.00	2	1.14
Saguenay	147,071	1	0.68	147,957	2	1.35	1	0.75
Trois-Rivières	145,567	0	0.00	144,782	1	0.69	2	1.04
Saint John	145,363	0	0.00	145,173	1	0.69	1	0.94
Thunder Bay	124,262	3	2.41	124,821	0	0.00	2	1.81
Total	**4,875,729**	**90**	**1.85**	**4,839,154**	**73**	**1.51**	**68**	**1.52**
CMA totals	**21,094,390**	**427**	**2.02**	**20,857,273**	**400**	**1.92**	**360**	**1.86**
< 100,000 population	**11,176,117**	**231**	**2.07**	**11,117,090**	**224**	**2.01**	**215**	**1.93**
Canada	**32,270,507**	**658**	**2.04**	**31,974,363**	**624**	**1.95**	**576**	**1.88**

r revised
1. Note that a CMA usually comprises more than one police service.
2. A total of 13 homicides were reported and included in 2005 but occurred in previous years: 2 in Montréal; 1 in Toronto; 1 in Kitchener; 1 in Edmonton; 3 in Vancouver; and 5 in areas < 100,000 population.
3. A total of 21 homicides were reported and included in 2004 but occurred in previous years: 2 in Montréal; 1 in Edmonton; 6 in Vancouver; and 12 in areas < 100,000 population.
4. Population estimates were derived from 2005 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2004 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. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution in 2005.
7. As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in the Vancouver CMA total for 2004 which occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.
8. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
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 2004.
12. Includes 1 homicide that occurred in a correctional institution and 1 that occurred in a halfway house in 2005.
Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.
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	2005			2004[r]		
	Number Population[1]	of victims	Rate[2]	Number Population[1]	of victims	Rate[2]
Toronto CMA* Police Services[3]						
Toronto Police	2,607,637	79	3.03	2,613,479	64	2.45
Peel Regional Police	1,148,445	12	1.04	1,108,252	15	1.35
York Regional Police	922,487	10	1.08	885,972	13	1.47
Montréal CMA* Police Services[3]						
Montréal Police	1,873,813	35	1.87	1,873,071	43	2.30
Longueuil Police	389,071	2	0.51	387,500	4	1.03
Laval Police	370,368	8	2.16	365,556	6	1.64
Vancouver CMA* Police Services[3]						
Vancouver Police	584,701	20	3.42	581,133	25	4.30
Surrey (RCMP**) Police	393,256	21	5.34	385,980	10	2.59
Burnaby (RCMP**) Police	204,320	4	1.96	203,053	2	0.98
Richmond (RCMP**) Police	173,429	6	3.46	173,177	6	3.46
Other Large Municipal Police Services						
Calgary Police	970,797	24	2.47	953,236	16	1.68
Ottawa Police	832,550	11	1.32	829,588	10	1.21
Edmonton Police	718,788	37	5.15	709,984	29	4.08
Winnipeg Police	649,921	25	3.85	646,704	34	5.26
Durham Regional Police[4]	575,201	1	0.17	563,153	6	1.07
Québec Police	530,618	5	0.94	528,242	6	1.14
Hamilton Regional Police	519,878	10	1.92	519,281	9	1.73
Waterloo Regional Police	485,248	7	1.44	477,885	6	1.26
Halton Regional Police[4]	443,402	3	0.68	429,578	2	0.47
Niagara Regional Police	434,347	14	3.22	432,565	7	1.62
London Police	359,447	14	3.89	357,586	5	1.40
Gatineau-Métro Police	245,629	2	0.81	230,833	1	0.43
Windsor Police	221,879	5	2.25	221,568	4	1.81
Halifax Regional Police	213,242	10	4.69	212,346	7	3.30
Saskatoon Police	203,032	9	4.43	202,279	8	3.95
Regina Police	182,459	8	4.38	182,092	10	5.49
St. John's (RNC***) Police	181,527	2	1.10	179,334	1	0.56
Greater Sudbury Police	160,912	2	1.24	160,932	0	0.00
Sherbrooke Regional Police	148,225	0	0.00	147,132	0	0.00
Saguenay Police	147,071	1	0.68	147,957	2	1.35

[r]   revised
*   Census Metropolitan Area
**   Royal Canadian Mounted Police
*** Royal Newfoundland Cons
1. Police service population estimates were derived from 2005 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2004 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 CMAs.
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, 1995 to 2005

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	%
1995	176	29.9	183	31.1	121	20.6	70	11.9	…	…	20	3.4
1996	212	33.4	195	30.7	131	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	40	7.3	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	152	26.1	182	31.3	126	21.6	67	11.5	8	1.4	9	1.5
2003	161	29.3	142	25.9	121	22.0	64	11.7	8	1.5	12	2.2
2004[r]	173	27.7	205	32.9	136	21.8	63	10.1	6	1.0	13	2.1
2005	222	33.7	198	30.1	145	22.0	45	6.8	12	1.8	7	1.1

Year	Poisoning		Vehicle[1]		Other[2]		Unknown		Total	
	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%
1995	6	1.0	…	…	6	1.0	6	1.0	588	100.0
1996	6	0.9	…	…	12	1.9	12	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	5	0.9	13	2.4	4	0.7	10	1.9	538	100.0
2000	4	0.7	14	2.6	1	0.2	8	1.5	546	100.0
2001	8	1.4	5	0.9	5	0.9	8	1.4	553	100.0
2002	3	0.5	7	1.2	6	1.0	22	3.8	582	100.0
2003	6	1.1	6	1.1	7	1.3	22	4.0	549	100.0
2004[r]	8	1.3	6	1.0	1	0.2	13	2.1	624	100.0
2005	5	0.8	4	0.6	3	0.5	17	2.6	658	100.0

... 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.
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 6

Homicides involving firearms, by region

Region	2005		2004[r]		Average 1995 to 2004	
	Number	Rate [1]	Number	Rate [1]	Number	Rate [1]
Atlantic	16	0.68	6	0.26	9	0.37
Quebec	37	0.49	30	0.40	53	0.71
Ontario	84	0.67	55	0.44	52	0.44
Manitoba	11	0.93	13	1.11	5	0.45
Saskatchewan	9	0.91	4	0.40	4	0.44
Alberta	30	0.92	23	0.72	16	0.53
British Columbia	35	0.82	40	0.95	34	0.85
Territories[2]	0	…	2	…	1	…
Canada	**222**	**0.69**	**173**	**0.54**	**174**	**0.57**

… figures not applicable
1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates were derived from 2005 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2004 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, 1995 to 2005

	Type of Firearm												
	Handgun		Rifle/Shotgun		Fully automatic firearm		Sawed-off rifle/shotgun		Firearm–like weapons[1]		Unknown type		Total	
Year	# 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	% of firearm homicides	# of victims	Homicides involving firearm as a % of total homicides
1995	95	54.0	64	36.4	2	1.1	15	8.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	176	29.9
1996	107	50.5	81	38.2	8	3.8	16	7.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	212	33.4
1997	99	51.3	77	39.9	2	1.0	10	5.2	0	0.0	5	2.6	193	32.9
1998	70	46.4	51	33.8	12	7.9	14	9.3	0	0.0	4	2.6	151	27.1
1999	89	53.9	58	35.2	6	3.6	6	3.6	2	1.2	4	2.4	165	30.7
2000	107	58.2	58	31.5	4	2.2	11	6.0	0	0.0	4	2.2	184	33.7
2001	110	64.3	46	26.9	3	1.8	7	4.1	2	1.2	3	1.8	171	30.9
2002	98	64.5	40	26.3	3	2.0	6	3.9	0	0.0	5	3.3	152	26.1
2003	110	68.3	32	19.9	2	1.2	13	8.1	0	0.0	4	2.5	161	29.3
2004r	112	64.7	37	21.4	2	1.2	15	8.7	0	0.0	7	4.0	173	27.7
2005	128	57.7	55	24.8	7	3.2	11	5.0	5	2.3	16	7.2	222	33.7
Average 1995 to 2004	100	57.4	54	31.3	4	2.5	11	6.5	0	0.2	4	2.1	174	30.2

1. Firearm-like weapons include (nail gun, pellet gun, etc.).
Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 8

Solved homicides by accused-victim relationship[1], Canada

Relationship type (Victims killed by)	2005 Number of victims	Percent	2004[r] Number of victims	Percent	Average 1995 to 2004 Number of victims	Percent
Family Relationship						
Spousal Relationship						
Husband (legal)	23	4.8	27	5.7	23	5.0
Husband (common-law)	21	4.4	21	4.4	22	4.8
Husband (separated and divorced, legal)[2]	10	2.1	15	3.2	18	3.9
Husband (separated, common-law)	8	1.7	…	…	…	…
Wife (legal)	1	0.2	3	0.6	5	1.1
Wife (common-law)	9	1.9	8	1.7	8	1.7
Wife (separated and divorced, legal)[2]	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.4
Wife (separated, common-law)	1	0.2	…	…	…	…
Same-sex spouse[3, 4]	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
Ex-same-sex spouse[3, 4]	0	0.0	…	…	…	…
Total Spousal	**74**	**15.5**	**75**	**15.8**	**79**	**17.1**
Non-Spousal Relationship						
Father[5]	12	2.5	21	4.4	27	5.8
Mother[5]	8	1.7	15	3.2	14	3.0
Son/Daughter[5]	27	5.6	18	3.8	19	4.1
Sibling	14	2.9	11	2.3	9	1.9
Other family relation[6]	21	4.4	23	4.8	20	4.3
Total Non-Spousal	**82**	**17.2**	**88**	**18.5**	**89**	**19.2**
Total Family	**156**	**32.6**	**163**	**34.2**	**168**	**36.3**
Acquaintance						
Boyfriend/girlfriend/other intimate (current or former)	16	3.3	24	5.0	19	4.1
Close friend	37	7.7	34	7.1	30	6.5
Neighbour	24	5.0	10	2.1	17	3.7
Authority figure[3]	3	0.6	1	0.2	2	0.4
Business relationship (legal)	9	1.9	10	2.1	11	2.4
Criminal relationship[7]	58	12.1	41	8.6	38	8.2
Casual acquaintance	86	18.0	118	24.8	102	22.0
Total Acquaintance	**233**	**48.7**	**238**	**50.0**	**219**	**47.3**
Stranger	86	18.0	73	15.3	69	14.9
Unknown relationship	3	0.6	2	0.4	7	1.5
Total solved homicides	**478**	**100.0**	**476**	**100.0**	**463**	**100.0**
Unsolved homicides	**180**	…	**148**	…	**114**	…
Total homicides	**658**	…	**624**	…	**577**	…

… 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. Includes spouses separated from a common-law relationship prior to and including 2004.
3. Authority figure and same-sex spouse were added to the survey in 1997; therefore, the averages are calculated from 1997 to 2004.
4. Separate variables for Same-sex spouse and Ex-same-sex spouse were created in 2005
5. Includes biological, adopted, step and foster relationships.
6. Includes nieces, nephews, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, etc. related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption.
7. Include prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients, loansharks, gang members, etc.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 9

Victims of spousal homicide by region

Region	2005 Number	2005 Rate[1]	2004[r] Number	2004[r] Rate[1]	Average 1995 to 2004 Number[2]	Average 1995 to 2004 Rate[1]
Atlantic	5	0.39	4	0.39	4	0.32
Quebec	12	0.30	21	0.52	18	0.43
Ontario	22	0.33	21	0.32	25	0.40
Manitoba	5	0.84	6	1.01	4	0.65
Saskatchewan	3	0.59	6	1.18	5	0.84
Alberta	14	0.75	8	0.47	10	0.62
British Columbia	13	0.56	5	0.22	12	0.51
Territories[3]	0	…	4	…	2	…
Canada	**74**	**0.43**	**75**	**0.43**	**79**	**0.47**

… figures not applicable
[r] revised
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 2005 preliminary postcensal population estimates and 2004 updated postcensal estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.
2. Excludes 6 same sex spousal homicides 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, 1995 to 2005

Year	Total number of child victims	Number of child victims killed by parents	Parent-child homicides as a % of all solved homicides	Father	Step-Father	Mother	Step-Mother
1995[r]	53	36	7.3	23	2	11	2
1996[r]	53	41	7.7	23	6	15	1
1997[r]	65	52	11.1	24	7	23	1
1998[r]	55	47	10.4	27	4	16	2
1999[r]	36	27	6.4	15	4	10	0
2000[r]	39	27	6.4	13	5	9	0
2001[r]	39	30	6.6	14	2	14	1
2002[r]	44	31	6.6	20	4	9	0
2003[r]	33	24	5.6	9	4	11	1
2004[r]	37	27	5.7	8	6	14	0
2005	33	13	2.7	1	4	7	1
Average 1995 to 2004	45	34	7.4	18	4	13	1

The "Actual number of accused in parent-child homicides" header spans the Father, Step-Father, Mother, and Step-Mother columns.

[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, 1995 to 2005

Year	Atlantic	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Territories	Canada	Victims of gang-related homicides as a % of all homicides
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[r]	0	18	14	5	4	15	16	0	72	11.5
2005[1]	1	24	31	5	5	25	16	0	107	16.3
Average 1995 to 2004	1	21	12	3	1	5	8	0	51	8.7

[r] revised
1. Starting in 2005, gang related homicides include "suspected" gang-related. Of the 107 homicides linked to organized crime or street gangs in 2005, 74 were reported as determined and 33 were suspected
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 12

Victims of homicide and accused persons, by sex, Canada, 1995 to 2005

	Victims					Accused				
	Males		Females		Total	Males		Females		Total
Year	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1995[r1]	393	66.8	195	33.2	588	511	87.2	75	12.8	586
1996[r2]	435	68.5	200	31.5	635	520	88.4	68	11.6	588
1997[r1]	381	65.0	205	35.0	586	445	85.7	74	14.3	519
1998[r]	381	68.3	177	31.7	558	474	87.9	65	12.1	539
1999[r]	365	67.8	173	32.2	538	445	90.3	48	9.7	493
2000[r1]	397	72.7	149	27.3	546	422	88.1	57	11.9	479
2001[r1]	392	70.9	161	29.1	553	449	87.5	64	12.5	513
2002[r2]	376	64.6	206	35.4	582	481	89.2	58	10.8	539
2003[r]	391	71.2	158	28.8	549	482	88.6	62	11.4	544
2004[r]	425	68.1	199	31.9	624	530	89.5	62	10.5	592
2005	480	72.9	178	27.1	658	539	90.0	60	10.0	599
Average 1995 to 2004	394	68.3	182	31.7	576	476	88.3	63	11.7	539

[r] revised
1. Total of accused excludes two persons whose gender was reported by police as unknown.
2. Total of accused excludes one person whose gender 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, 1995 to 2005

Year	Number of accused			Rate per 100,000 youth population[1]			Total youth as % of total accused
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1995	53	15	68	4.33	1.29	2.85	11.6
1996[r]	50	3	53	4.03	0.26	2.19	9.0
1997[r]	45	11	56	3.59	0.93	2.29	10.8
1998[r]	55	3	58	4.35	0.25	2.36	10.8
1999[r]	37	9	46	2.92	0.75	1.86	9.3
2000	38	5	43	2.99	0.42	1.74	9.0
2001	27	5	32	2.11	0.41	1.28	6.2
2002	33	9	42	2.55	0.73	1.67	7.8
2003[r]	49	10	59	3.77	0.81	2.33	10.8
2004[r]	39	5	44	2.98	0.40	1.72	7.4
2005	56	9	65	4.26	0.72	2.53	10.9
Average 1995 to 2004	43	8	50	3.35	0.62	2.02	9.3

[r] revised

1. Population estimates at July 1st provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.
   1995: Revised intercensal.
   1996 to 2000: Final intercensal estimates.
   2001/2002: Final postcensal estimates.
   2003/2004: Updated postcensal estimates.
   2005: Preliminary postcensal estimates.
Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Bibliography

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006) "Recorded Crime – Victims" http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4510.0 Accessed October 2006.

Brzozowski, J., Taylor-Butts, A., and S. Johnson. (2006). Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada. *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-XIE. Vol. 26, No. 3. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Campbell, J. C., Oliver, C. E., and L. F. Bullock. (1998). "The dynamics of battering during pregnancy: Women's explanations of why" in J. C. Campbell (ed.), *Empowering survivors of abuse*: 81-89.

Chang, J., Berg, C.J., Saltzman, L.E., and J. Herndon. (2005). "Homicide: A leading cause of injury deaths among pregnant and postpartum women in the United States, 1991-1999". *American Journal of Public Health*, 95(3):471-477.

Gannon, M. (2006). "Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005". *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002-XPE. Vol. 26 No. 4. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Hong Kong Police Force, (2006) "Homicide 1995-2005" http://www.info.gov.hk/police/hkp-home/english/statistics/homicide.htm Accessed October 2006.

Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (INSEE). (2006) "Crimes and misdemeanors reported and resolution rates" http://www.insee.fr/en/ffc/chifcle_fiche.asp?ref_id=NATTEF05305&tab_id=97

Jansson, Krista, Kathryn Coleman and Peter Kaiza. (2006) "Violent crime in Crime in England and Wales 2005/06". *Home Office Statistical Bulletin*. Walker, Alison, Chris Kershaw and Sian Nicholas (eds.) http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0506.html

Krulewitch, C.J., Pierre-Louis, M.-L., de Leon-Gomez, R., Guy, R., and R. Green (2001). "Hidden from view: Violent deaths among pregnant women in the district of Columbia, 1988-1996". *Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health*, 46(1):4-10.

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.

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

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.

Singapore Police Force, (2006) "Crime Situation: Index crimes" http://www.spf.gov.sg/stats/stats2005_index.htm Accessed October 2006.

Statistics Canada (2003). Health Statistics Division, Canadian Vital Statistics, Death Database.

Statistics Denmark (2006) "STRAF2: Reported criminal offences by region and type of offence (detailed)." http://www.statbank.dk Accessed October 2006.

Statistics Finland, (2006) "Justice and crime statistics: Criminality" http://www.stat.fi/tup/suoluk/suoluk_oikeusolot_en.html Accessed October 2006.

Statistics New Zealand (2006) National Annual Recorded Offences for the Latest 10 Calendar Years http://www.stats.govt.nz/products-and-services/table-builder/crime-tables/offences/offence-calendar.htm#national Accessed October 2006.

U.S. Department of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2006) "Crime in the United Stats, 2005" http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/offenses/violent_crime/murder_homicide.html Accessed October 2006.

Juristat �

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

For further information, please contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 19th floor, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6 at 613-951-9023 or call toll-free 1-800-387-2231.

For information on the wide range of data available from Statistics Canada, you can contact us by calling one of our toll-free numbers. You can also contact us by e-mail or by visiting our website at www.statcan.ca.

National inquiries line	1-800-263-1136
National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired	1-800-363-7629
Depository Services Program inquiries	1-800-700-1033
Fax line for Depository Services Program	1-800-889-9734
E-mail inquiries	infostats@statcan.ca
Website	www.statcan.ca

Recent *Juristat* releases

Catalogue no. 85-002-X

2004

Vol. 24, no. 2	Youth court statistics, 2002/03
Vol. 24, no. 3	Youth custody and community services in Canada, 2001/02
Vol. 24, no. 4	Hate crime in Canada
Vol. 24, no. 5	Breaking and entering in Canada - 2002
Vol. 24, no. 6	Crime statistics in Canada, 2003
Vol. 24, no. 7	Private security and public policing in Canada, 2001
Vol. 24, no. 8	Homicide in Canada, 2003
Vol. 24, no. 9	Youth custody and community services in Canada, 2002/03
Vol. 24, no. 10	Adult correctional services in Canada, 2002/03
Vol. 24, no. 11	Victim services in Canada, 2002/03
Vol. 24, no. 12	Adult criminal court statistics, 2003/04

2005

Vol. 25, no. 1	Children and youth as victims of violent crime
Vol. 25, no. 2	Returning to correctional services after release: a profile of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults involved in Saskatchewan corrections from 1999/00 to 2003/04
Vol. 25, no. 3	Canada's shelters for abused women, 2003/04
Vol. 25, no. 4	Youth court statistics, 2003/04
Vol. 25, no. 5	Crime statistics in Canada, 2004
Vol. 25, no. 6	Homicide in Canada, 2004
Vol. 25, no. 7	Criminal victimization in Canada, 2004
Vol. 25, no. 8	Adult correctional services in Canada, 2003/04

2006

Vol. 26, no. 1	Offences against the administration of justice, 1994/95 to 2003/04
Vol. 26, no. 2	Youth custody and community services in Canada, 2003/04
Vol. 26, no. 3	Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada
Vol. 26, no. 4	Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005
Vol. 26, no. 5	Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2004/2005