Juristat Article

Homicide in Canada, 2009

by Sara Beattie and Adam Cotter

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Homicide in Canada, 2009

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Symbols

.   not available for any reference period

..   not available for a specific reference period

…   not applicable

0   true zero or a value rounded to zero

0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded

p   preliminary

r   revised

x   suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

E   use with caution

F   too unreliable to be published

Homicide in Canada, 2009: Highlights

- Police reported 610 homicides in Canada during 2009, 1 less than the previous year. After peaking in the mid-1970s, the homicide rate per 100,000 population generally declined until 1999 and, despite annual fluctuations, has remained relatively stable since.

- Among the provinces, Alberta had the largest decline in the number of homicides from the previous year (down 15).

- Manitoba reported the highest homicide rate per 100,000 population for the third consecutive year followed by Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta.

- Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador reported the lowest homicide rates in 2009. Quebec's rate dropped by 5%, reaching its lowest point in over 40 years.

- Among census metropolitan areas, Abbotsford-Mission reported the highest homicide rate, followed by Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Saguenay, Halifax, Vancouver and Edmonton.

- In 2009, police reported 124 (or 1 in 5) homicides to be gang-related, 14 fewer than in the previous year. This drop was primarily due to a decline in Alberta.

- Homicide victims were most likely to be stabbed or shot, with each method accounting for about one-third of all homicides. A further 20% of victims were beaten, 7% were strangled or suffocated and the remaining 7% were killed by other methods.

- In 2009, the rate of firearm-related homicides declined by 12% after increasing 24% between 2002 and 2008. More than half (55%) of all homicides committed with a firearm in 2009 were gang-related.

- The number of youth accused of homicide increased substantially in 2009. There were 78 youth aged 12 to 17 accused of committing homicide in 2009, 23 more than the previous year. This represents the second highest rate per 100,000 population reported in over 30 years.

- In 2009, the rate of female homicide victims reached the second lowest rate per 100,000 population since data collection began in 1961.

- 82% of solved homicides were committed by someone known to the victim. However, in 2009, the number of victims killed by a stranger increased by 17% from the previous year.

- There was a slight increase in spousal homicides in 2009 with 3 more than the previous year. However, spousal homicide rates have generally been declining over the past 30 years.

Homicide in Canada, 2009

by Sara Beattie and Adam Cotter

There were 610 homicides reported by police in 2009, 1 less than the previous year. Homicides continue to be a relatively rare occurrence in Canada, accounting for less than 1% of all violent crimes reported by police. Canadians are about six times more likely to commit suicide and about five times more likely to be killed in a traffic accident than they are to be a victim of homicide.[1]

Homicide is the most serious criminal offence, and a country's homicide rate can be used as a barometer to measure the level of violence in that society. It is also the only criminal offence that is directly comparable among nations. Canada's homicide rate continues to be about one-third that of the United States, but comparable to many European nations (Chart 1).

Chart 1
Homicide rates for selected countries
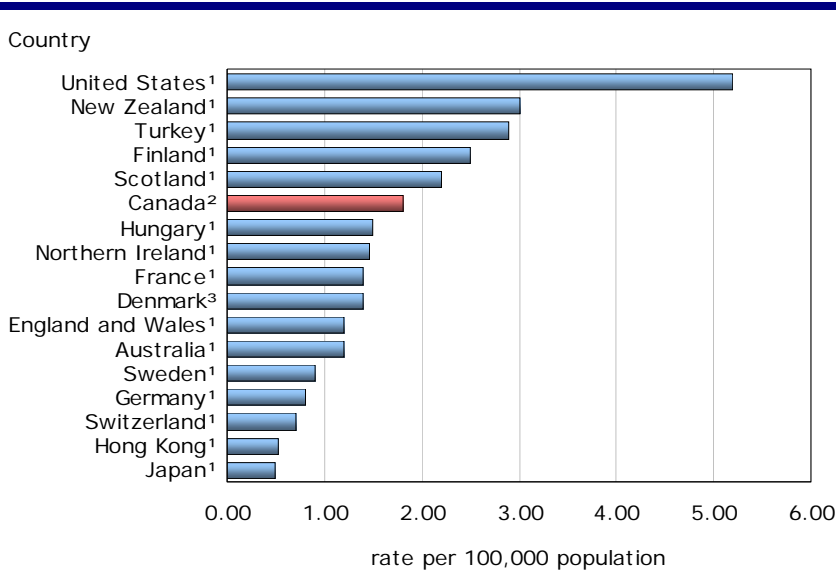
1. Figures reflect 2008 data.
2. Figures reflect 2009 data.
3. Figures reflect 2007 data.
Source: Statistics Canada, Interpol Ottawa and national statistical office websites.

Homicide rate remains stable over past decade

Between the mid-1960s and mid-1970s, Canada experienced a sharp rise in homicide, as the rate more than doubled over this period, from 1.25 homicides per 100,000 population in 1966 to 3.03 in 1975. The homicide rate generally declined over the next 25 years, dropping 42% between 1975 and 1999. Since 1999, despite some annual fluctuations, the rate has remained relatively stable (Chart 2).

While the majority (94%) of homicide incidents in 2009 involved one victim, there were 35 incidents involving multiple victims: 26 involved 2 victims, 6 involved 3 victims and 3 involved 4 victims.

Chart 2
Homicides peaked in mid-1970s

rate per 100,000 population
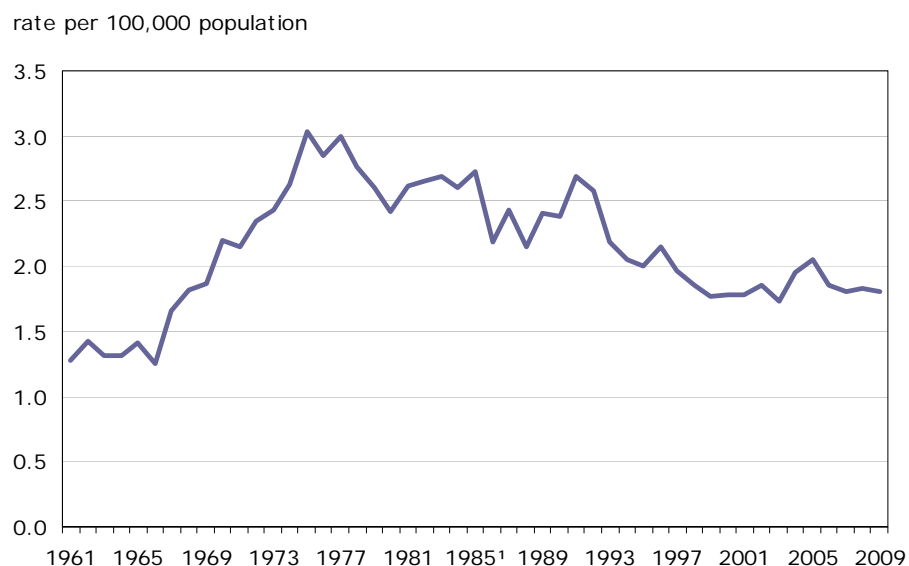
1. Excludes 329 victims killed in the Air India incident.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Highest homicide rates continue to be in western and northern Canada

Historically, the western provinces and the territories have reported the highest homicide rates in the country. This trend continued in 2009 with Nunavut and Yukon reporting the highest rates in the nation. Among the provinces, Manitoba reported the highest rate for the third consecutive year, followed by Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta.

Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador reported the lowest rates (Table 1B). This pattern was similar to that for overall violent crime.

Alberta, with 95 homicides in 2009, had the largest decline among the provinces, down from 110 in 2008 (Table 1A). Quebec's homicide rate per 100,000 population continued to decline in 2009, reaching its lowest point in over 40 years (Table 1B).

In 2009, two provinces had notable increases in homicides from the previous year: Saskatchewan, with 36 homicides (an increase of 6 from 2008) and New Brunswick, with 12 homicides (an increase of 9 from 2008). The increase in New Brunswick followed a 40-year low in 2008 (Table 1B).

Chart 3
Highest homicide rates in Manitoba and Saskatchewan

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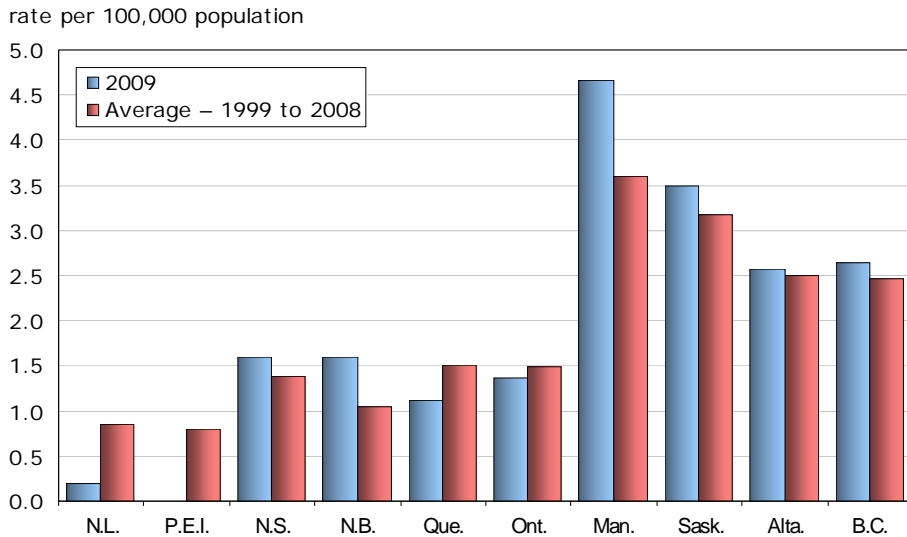
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Abbotsford-Mission has highest homicide rate for second year in a row

Violent crime, and particularly homicide, is often perceived to be a phenomenon of larger cities. However, the homicide rate for the 10 census metropolitan areas (CMAs)[2] with populations over 500,000, representing almost 18 million Canadians, was 1.7 in 2009, compared to a rate of 2.1 for the 10.5 million Canadians living in non-CMA areas under 100,000 population.

Over the previous 10 years, the homicide rate in CMAs and non-CMAs was virtually identical. The lowest homicide rates were actually reported in CMAs between 100,000 and 500,000 population, both in 2009 and over the previous 10 years.

Among CMAs, Abbotsford-Mission reported the highest homicide rate per 100,000 population (5.2) for the second consecutive year in 2009, followed by Thunder Bay (5.0), Winnipeg (4.1), Saguenay (3.4), Halifax (3.0), Vancouver (2.6) and Edmonton (2.6) (Table 2).

Comparing the three largest CMAs, Toronto reported 90 homicides in 2009, 13 fewer than in 2008. Vancouver reported 61 homicides in 2009, 7 more than in 2008, for a rate of 2.6. Toronto's rate of 1.6 per 100,000 population was below the national average of 1.8. Montréal reported 44 homicides, down 4 from 2008, for a rate of 1.2.

Chart 4
Among the largest census metropolitan areas homicide rates highest in west

Census metropolitan areas

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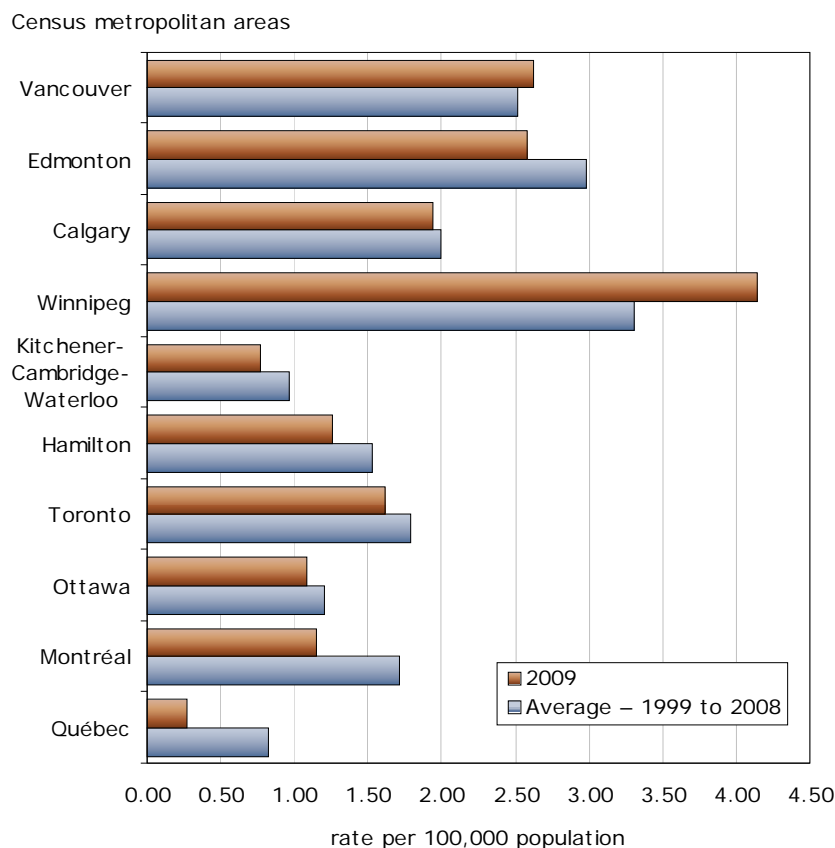
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Gang-related homicides decline

Homicides classified as "gang-related" by police, include victims who are members of organized crime groups and street gangs, as well as any innocent bystanders in a gang-related homicide incident. In 2009, 124 homicides (or 1 in 5) of the 610 homicides reported by police were considered to have been gang-related, 14 fewer than in 2008. Despite the decline, gang-related homicides have generally been increasing since the early 1990s.

Most of the 2009 decrease occurred in Alberta, where gang-related homicides dropped from 35 in 2008 to 13 in 2009. Gang-related homicides in this province had previously generally been increasing since 2003 (Table 3).

Chart 5
Gang-related homicides decline in 2009

rate per 100,000 population
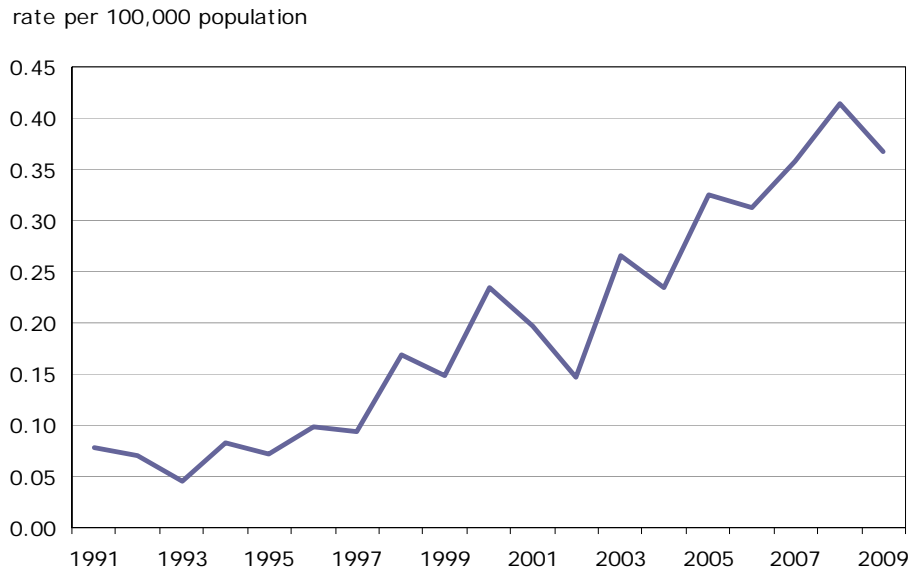
Note: These data became available beginning in 1991.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Historically, gang-related homicides have been more likely than non-gang-related homicides to be classified as first degree murder—a homicide that was planned and deliberate. Bill C-14 was introduced in 2009 to ensure that all gang-related homicides would be classified as first-degree, whether or not they meet the pre-existing standards of being planned and deliberate.

Both victims and offenders of gang-related homicides are, on average, younger than those of non-gang-related homicides. The average (mean) age of gang-related homicide victims was 28 years compared to 35 years for non-gang-related homicide victims.

The average age of persons accused of committing a gang-related homicide in 2009 was 23 years, compared to 30 years for non-gang-related accused persons.

Winnipeg reported highest rate of gang-related homicides

The large majority of gang-related homicides occurred within Canada's largest cities. The 10 largest CMAs accounted for half of Canada's homicides in 2009, but more than two-thirds of gang-related homicides.

Winnipeg, with 9 gang-related homicides, reported the highest rate per 100,000 population among the 10 largest CMAs, followed by Vancouver. Despite having the most (30) gang-related homicides of any CMA in 2009, Toronto's rate was lower than both Winnipeg and Vancouver.

The largest decline among all CMAs was seen in Calgary, which had the highest rate in the country in 2008. The number of gang-related homicide victims in Calgary fell from 16 in 2008 to 5 in 2009.

Firearm-related homicides down 12%

For the past 30 years, there have been two primary methods used to commit homicide: shooting and stabbing. In 2009, this trend continued, as there were 210 victims (36%) killed by stabbing and 179 victims killed by a firearm (30%). A further 20% of victims were beaten, 7% were strangled or suffocated and 7% were killed by other methods such as vehicles, fire (smoke inhalation, burns), poisoning and shaken baby syndrome (Table 6).

In 2009, the rate of homicides committed with a firearm dropped by 12%, after having increased 24% between 2002 and 2008. Previous to 2002, firearm homicides had generally been declining since the mid-1970s.

Declines were reported for all three of the most common types of firearms in 2009: handguns, rifles/shotguns and sawed-off rifles/shotguns. Handguns were the most common type of firearm used in homicides.

Of the 179 homicides committed with a firearm in 2009, 112 (or 69%) involved handguns. There were 29 homicides committed with a rifle/shotgun, the lowest number reported since data was first collected in 1961, and 14 with a sawed-off rifle/shotgun (Table 4).

Despite declining in 2009, the use of handguns has generally been increasing over the past 30 years. In contrast, the use of rifles/shotguns has generally been declining.

Chart 6
Use of firearms declines in 2009

rate per 100,000 population
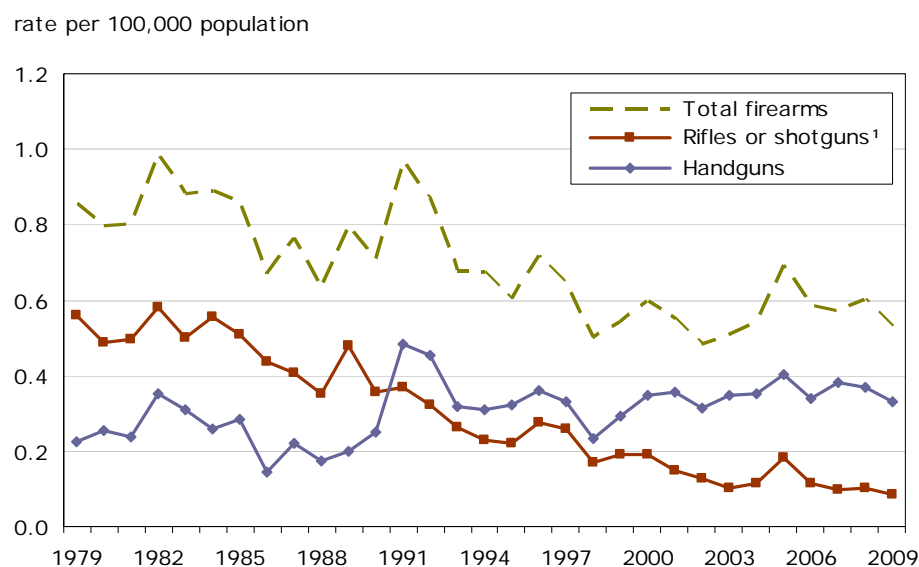
1. Excludes sawed-off rifles or shotguns.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Handguns remained the most common type of firearm involved in homicides in major metropolitan areas, accounting for almost three-quarters (73%) of all firearm homicides in CMAs in 2009. In non-CMA areas, rifles or shotguns were the most prevalent, being used in about four in ten firearm homicides.

With 33 fatal shootings, Vancouver reported the highest rate of firearm homicides per 100,000 population among the largest 10 CMAs, followed by Toronto (Table 5).

In 2009, 80% of gang-related homicides were committed with a firearm, compared to 16% of homicides that did not involve gangs. Among all gang-related homicides that were committed with a firearm in 2009, handguns were used in 70% of incidents.

Two-thirds of recovered firearms not registered

Over the past 5 years, police have recovered 253 firearms that were used to commit homicide where the registration status with the national Firearms Registry was known. Of these, 78 (31%) were registered and 175 (69%) were not registered. Of the firearms that were registered, 52 were rifles or shotguns, 17 were handguns and 9 were sawed-off rifles or shotguns.

For the 212 incidents where the firearm was recovered and ownership could be determined, 103 (49%) were owned by the accused, 17 (8%) by the victim and 92 (43%) by another person. The firearm was reported as stolen in 43 of these incidents.

Highest rate of male youth accused of homicide since data was first collected

Police identified 78 youth aged 12 to 17 accused of committing homicide in 2009 including 73 males and 5 females. This was an increase of 23 over 2008 and the second highest number and rate in over 30 years (Table 7). The rate of youth accused of homicide has generally been increasing since 2001.

The 2009 rate of male youth accused (5.6 per 100,000 male youth) was the highest rate reported since data were first collected in 1961.

In 2009, there were 22 youth (all of whom were male) accused of committing a gang-related homicide, up from 10 in 2008. Most of the increase occurred in Manitoba, the province with the highest youth homicide rate.

Compared to adults, more incidents of homicide involving youth were gang-related. Among incidents with an accused youth, 28% involved gangs compared to 12% of incidents with an adult accused.

Chart 7
Second highest rate of youth 12 to 17 years accused of homicide in over 30 years
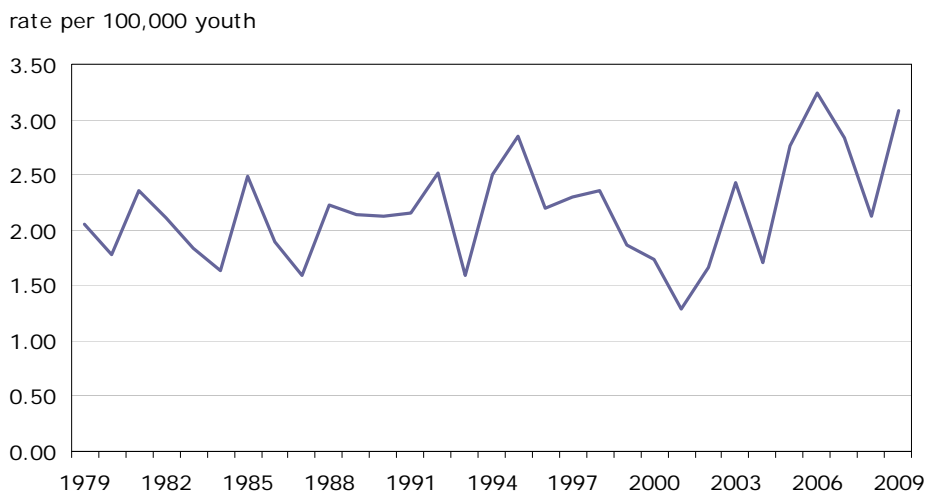
rate per 100,000 youth

Note: Data are available back to 1961.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Second lowest rate of female victims ever recorded

There were 160 female homicide victims in 2009, 14 more than in 2008. Despite this increase, 2009 represented the second lowest proportion (26%) of female homicide victims since data were first collected. The rate of female victims has generally been declining since the late 1960s.

Chart 8
Second lowest rate of females killed in over 30 years
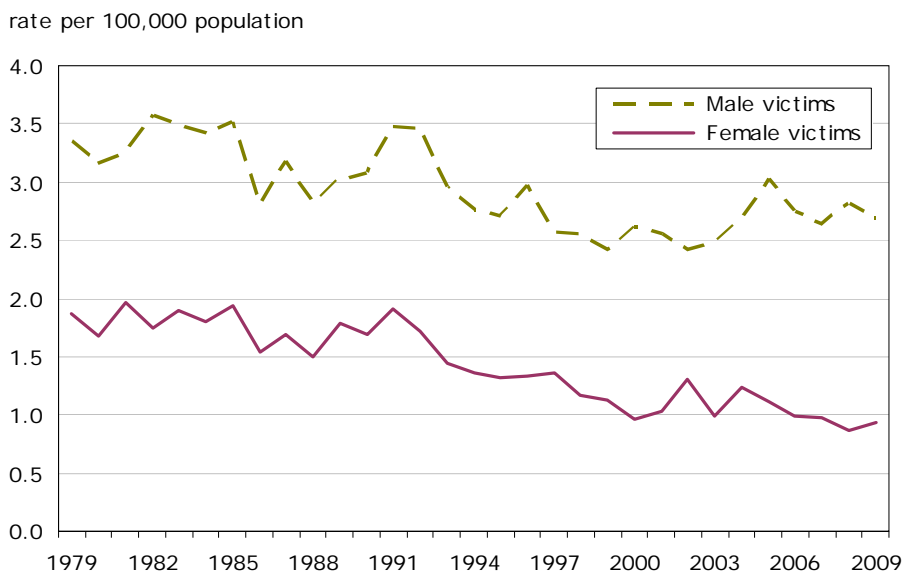
rate per 100,000 population

Note: Data are available back to 1961.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

As has been the case historically, males accounted for about 9 in 10 accused in homicides in 2009 (Table 9). Males accused of homicide have been getting younger in recent years. The average (mean) age of accused males has fallen from 32 in 2002 to 29 in 2009. The average age of accused females has remained constant at around 30 years of age.

Increase in homicides committed by strangers

Homicide victims in Canada are most likely to be killed by someone known to them (chart 9). Of all homicides that were solved (police identified an accused person) in 2009, 39% of victims were killed by an acquaintance, 34% by a family member and 9% by someone known to them through criminal activities such as drug trafficking (Table 8).

Chart 9
Most homicides committed by someone known to victim

rate per 100,000 population
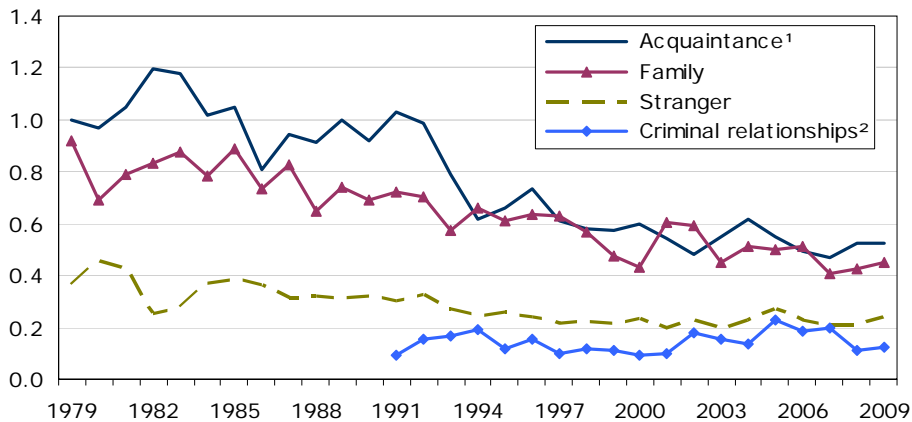
1. Prior to 1991, criminal relationship was included in acquaintance.
2. Include prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients, loansharks, gang members. It should be noted that some gang homicides are scored under "acquaintance". Criminal relationship was added to the Homicide Survey in 1991.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

In addition, 82 homicides were committed by someone not known to the victim, an increase of 17% over 2008. The number of homicides committed by a stranger was also substantially higher than the previous 10 year average. In 2009, Alberta and Saskatchewan had the largest increases in homicides committed by strangers from the previous year.

Slight increase in spousal homicides[3]

The rate of spousal homicide has generally been declining since the mid-1970s. In 2009, there were 65 spousal homicides, 3 more than the previous year. Despite this increase, spousal homicide rates in 2007, 2008 and 2009 were the lowest reported since the mid 1960's (Chart 10). There were four more female spousal homicide victims than in 2008 and two fewer male spousal homicide victims. There was also one more same-sex spousal homicide than in 2008.

In 2009, spousal homicide rates were lowest in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and the Yukon. The highest rates were found in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Women continue to be about three times more likely to be victims of spousal homicide than men. In 2009, 49 women and 15 men were killed by a current or former spouse (excludes one same-sex spousal victim). Men were more likely to be killed by a common-law spouse, while women were more often killed by a legally-married spouse. Women also continue to be at greater risk than men of being killed by an ex-spouse. In 2009, 14 of 49 female spousal victims were killed by a separated or divorced spouse, compared to 2 of 15 male spousal victims (Table 8).

In addition to the 65 spousal homicides, there were 23 homicides committed by a current or former boyfriend/girlfriend or intimate partner in 2009, 4 fewer than the previous year. The majority of these victims (78%) were female.

Chart 10
Spousal homicide rate generally declining over the past 30 years

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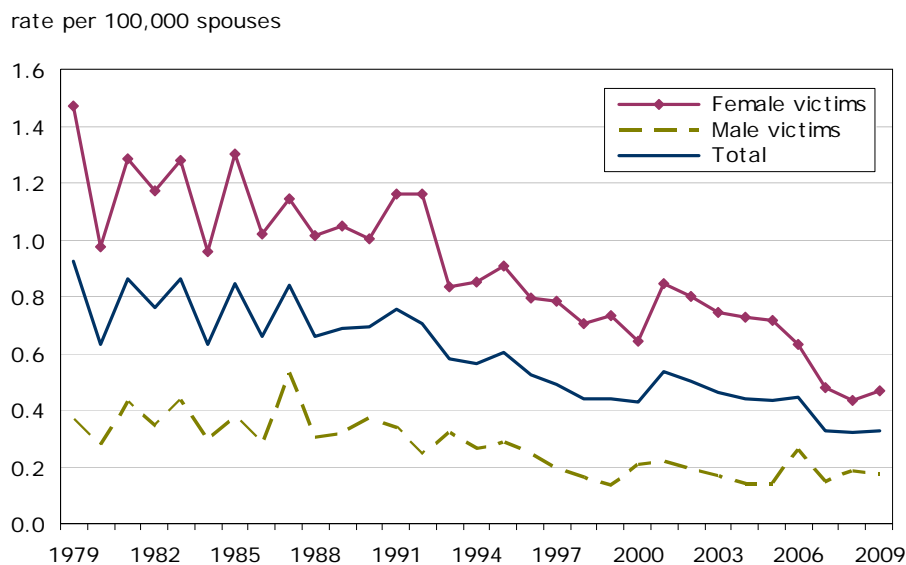
Note: Spouses include legally married, common-law, separated, and divorced persons age 15 years or older. Excludes same-sex spouses due to the unavailability of Census data on same-sex couples.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Taxi drivers and police officers have highest occupational risk

On average, 13 victims have been killed each year since 1999 while "on the-job", including 11 in 2009. A recent report[4] concludes that taxi drivers and police officers have the highest rates of homicide per 100,000 persons in their occupation. In 2009, there were three taxi drivers and one police officer killed as a direct result of their profession.

In addition, police reported three prostitutes killed as a direct result of their profession in 2009, lower than the average of seven prostitutes killed annually over the past decade.

Detailed data tables

Table 1A
Number of homicides by province or territory, 1979 to 2009

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.[1]	Y.T.	N.W.T.[2]	Nvt.	Canada
							number							
1979	5	0	17	11	186	175	44	36	56	90	4	7	..	631
1980	3	1	12	9	181	158	31	31	55	105	2	4	..	592
1981	4	1	11	17	186	170	41	29	73	110	1	5	..	648
1982	6	0	12	13	190	184	35	39	70	109	2	7	..	667
1983	6	0	13	11	190	202	40	33	75	108	1	3	..	682
1984	6	0	15	14	198	190	43	30	54	110	2	5	..	667
1985[3]	5	1	26	14	219	193	26	28	63	113	6	10	..	704
1986	4	0	15	12	156	139	47	26	64	89	3	14	..	569
1987	5	0	14	20	174	204	44	30	73	78	0	2	..	644
1988	7	1	11	8	154	186	31	23	66	80	1	8	..	576
1989	5	1	16	18	215	175	43	22	67	86	2	7	..	657
1990	0	1	9	12	184	182	39	36	74	110	1	12	..	660
1991	10	2	21	17	181	245	42	21	84	128	0	3	..	754
1992	2	0	21	11	166	242	29	32	92	122	2	13	..	732
1993	7	2	19	11	159	192	31	30	49	120	0	7	..	627
1994	4	1	19	15	126	192	29	24	66	113	3	4	..	596
1995	5	1	17	14	135	181	27	21	60	120	4	3	..	588
1996	7	1	18	9	154	187	45	32	53	125	0	4	..	635
1997	7	0	24	8	132	178	31	25	61	116	1	3	..	586
1998	7	1	24	5	137	156	33	33	64	90	3	5	..	558
1999	2	1	13	9	137	162	26	13	61	110	1	1	2	538
2000	6	3	15	10	150	156	30	26	59	85	2	1	3	546
2001	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	2	0	14	7	111	187	50	39	86	113	7	4	4	624
2005	11	0	20	9	100	219	49	43	108	101	1	0	2	663
2006	7	1	16	7	93	196	39	42	95	108	0	0	2	606
2007	3	0	13	8	90	202	61	30	88	88	2	2	7	594
2008	5	2	12	3	92	176	54	30	110	117	3	3	4	611
2009	1	0	15	12	88	178	57	36	95	118	2	2	6	610

.. not available for a specific reference period
1. As a result of investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2007, 5 reported in 2004,
7 reported in 2003 and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years.
2. Includes Nunavut before 1999.
3. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.
Note: There are some homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are
counted according to the year in which police submit the Homicide Survey to Statistics Canada.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 1B
Homicide rates by province or territory, 1979 to 2009

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask. rate[3]	Alta.	B.C.[1]	Y.T.	N.W.T.[2]	Nvt.	Canada	Percent change Canada percent
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	-4.3
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	9.79	10.66	1.78	0.2
2002	0.38	0.73	0.96	1.20	1.59	1.47	3.11	2.71	2.24	3.07	0.00	9.60	6.94	1.86	4.1
2003	0.96	0.73	0.85	1.07	1.32	1.45	3.69	4.11	2.01	2.28	3.23	9.40	10.23	1.74	-6.5
2004	0.39	0.00	1.49	0.93	1.47	1.51	4.26	3.91	2.65	2.72	22.24	9.24	13.40	1.96	12.6
2005	2.14	0.00	2.13	1.20	1.32	1.75	4.16	4.33	3.25	2.41	3.13	0.00	6.59	2.06	5.2
2006	1.37	0.73	1.71	0.94	1.22	1.55	3.29	4.23	2.78	2.55	0.00	0.00	6.49	1.86	-9.5
2007	0.59	0.00	1.39	1.07	1.17	1.58	5.11	3.00	2.50	2.04	6.14	4.59	22.38	1.81	-3.0
2008	0.99	1.43	1.28	0.40	1.19	1.36	4.48	2.96	3.06	2.67	9.04	6.86	12.65	1.84	1.6
2009	0.20	0.00	1.60	1.60	1.12	1.36	4.66	3.49	2.58	2.65	5.94	4.60	18.64	1.81	-1.4

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. As a result of investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2007, 5 reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003 and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years.

2. Includes Nunavut before 1999.

3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. Population estimates at July 1st 2010 provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Estimates are final intercensal from 1979 to 2006, final postcensal for 2007, updated postcensal for 2008 and preliminary postcensal for 2009.

4. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.

Note: There are some homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police submit the Homicide Survey to Statistics Canada.

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

Table 2
Homicides by census metropolitan area

Census metropolitan areas (CMA)[1]	2009			2008		Average 1999 to 2008	
	population[2]	number of victims	rate[3]	number of victims	rate[3]	number of victims	rate[3]
500,000 population and over							
Winnipeg	771,642	32	4.15	31	4.08	23	3.30
Vancouver	2,325,317	61	2.62	54	2.37	54	2.52
Edmonton	1,162,247	30	2.58	39	3.43	31	2.98
Calgary	1,233,708	24	1.95	34	2.84	21	2.00
Toronto	5,587,342	90	1.61	103	1.87	92	1.79
Hamilton	712,579	9	1.26	6	0.85	11	1.53
Montréal	3,811,327	44	1.15	48	1.27	62	1.71
Ottawa[4]	926,003	10	1.08	11	1.20	10	1.20
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	518,203	4	0.77	4	0.78	5	0.97
Québec	746,417	2	0.27	8	1.08	6	0.83
Total	**17,794,785**	**306**	**1.72**	**338**	**1.93**	**313**	**1.91**
100,000 to less than 500,000 population							
Abbotsford-Mission[7]	172,381	9	5.22	8	4.71	5	2.78
Thunder Bay	119,727	6	5.01	0	0.00	2	1.36
Saguenay	145,298	5	3.44	0	0.00	1	0.79
Halifax	398,049	12	3.01	7	1.78	7	1.76
Kingston[7]	158,670	4	2.52	1	0.63	2	1.54
Greater Sudbury	164,913	4	2.43	2	1.22	2	1.42
Saskatoon	265,714	6	2.26	4	1.55	7	2.76
Trois-Rivières	148,860	3	2.02	1	0.68	1	0.89
Regina	212,919	4	1.88	8	3.83	7	3.58
Kelowna[6]	178,801	3	1.68	6	3.43	4	2.34
Windsor	331,678	5	1.51	7	2.10	6	1.74
Moncton[6]	134,299	2	1.49	0	0.00	1	0.76
Brantford[6]	138,498	2	1.44	2	1.45	2	1.22
St. Catharines-Niagara	442,908	5	1.13	6	1.36	6	1.48
Victoria	351,889	3	0.85	5	1.43	5	1.47
Peterborough[6]	121,407	1	0.82	1	0.83	1	0.55
Guelph[6]	123,099	1	0.81	0	0.00	1	0.83
Oshawa	398,887	3	0.75	4	1.02	3	0.77
Gatineau[5]	301,403	2	0.66	4	1.35	4	1.33
London	490,420	3	0.61	2	0.41	6	1.21
Sherbrooke	185,084	1	0.54	0	0.00	1	0.64
Barrie[6]	196,639	1	0.51	0	0.00	2	1.21
St. John's	185,157	0	0.00	1	0.55	1	0.73
Saint John	102,521	0	0.00	1	0.98	1	0.86
Total	**5,469,221**	**85**	**1.55**	**70**	**1.29**	**68**	**1.49**
CMA totals	**23,264,006**	**391**	**1.68**	**408**	**1.78**	**381**	**1.82**
Non-CMA (Less than 100,000 population)	**10,475,853**	**219**	**2.09**	**203**	**1.95**	**205**	**1.89**
Canada	**33,739,859**	**610**	**1.81**	**611**	**1.83**	**587**	**1.84**

1. Note that a CMA usually comprises more than one police force.
2. The population estimates come from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st 2010: updated postcensal for 2008 and preliminary postcensal for 2009.
3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.
4. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
5. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
6. Barrie, Kelowna, Brantford, Moncton, Guelph and Peterborough became CMAs in 2006. Average number and rate are calculated from 2006 to 2008.
7. Abbotsford-Mission and Kingston became CMAs in 2001. Average number and rate are calculated from 2001 to 2008.
Note: Due to rounding, the sum of the averages may not add up to the total.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3
Gang-related homicides, by region, 1999 to 2009

Table 3A
Number of gang-related homicides, by region, 1999 to 2009

Year	Atlantic	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Territories	Canada	Victims of gang-related homicides as a percent of all homicides
					number					percent
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	17	5	4	15	16	0	75	12.0
2005	1	24	31	5	5	23	16	0	105	15.8
2006	1	23	27	7	9	22	13	0	102	16.8
2007	2	22	29	11	9	20	24	1	118	19.9
2008	1	21	31	14	2	35	34	0	138	22.6
2009	5	21	34	12	4	13	35	0	124	20.3

Table 3B
Rate of gang-related homicides, by region, 1999 to 2009

Year	Atlantic	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Territories	Canada
					rate[1]				
1999	0.00	0.41	0.04	0.09	0.00	0.14	0.12	0.00	0.15
2000	0.17	0.52	0.09	0.26	0.10	0.17	0.25	0.00	0.23
2001	0.00	0.31	0.16	0.35	0.10	0.13	0.25	0.00	0.20
2002	0.00	0.09	0.16	0.35	0.00	0.29	0.17	0.00	0.15
2003	0.04	0.20	0.31	0.52	0.40	0.25	0.29	0.00	0.27
2004	0.00	0.24	0.14	0.43	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.00	0.23
2005	0.04	0.32	0.25	0.42	0.50	0.69	0.38	0.00	0.33
2006	0.04	0.30	0.21	0.59	0.91	0.64	0.31	0.00	0.31
2007	0.09	0.29	0.23	0.92	0.90	0.57	0.56	0.93	0.36
2008	0.04	0.27	0.24	1.16	0.20	0.97	0.78	0.00	0.41
2009	0.21	0.27	0.26	0.98	0.39	0.35	0.79	0.00	0.37

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.
Note: Previous to 2005, police were asked if the homicide was "gang-related". Beginning in 2005, the question was amended to give police the option of specifying whether the homicide was: (a) confirmed as gang-related or (b) "suspected" as being gang-related. While it is unknown if "suspected" gang-related incidents were included in these numbers prior to 2005, indications from police officers are that they would have been in the majority of cases.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4
Homicides involving firearms, by type of firearm, Canada, 1999 to 2009

	Type of firearm							
	Handgun		Rifle or shotgun		Sawed-off rifle or shotgun		Fully automatic firearm	
Year	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides
1999	89	55.3	58	36.0	6	3.7	6	3.7
2000	107	59.4	58	32.2	11	6.1	4	2.2
2001	110	65.5	46	27.4	7	4.2	3	1.8
2002	98	66.7	40	27.2	6	4.1	3	2.0
2003	110	70.1	32	20.4	13	8.3	2	1.3
2004	112	67.5	37	22.3	15	9.0	2	1.2
2005	130	62.5	59	28.4	11	5.3	7	3.4
2006	110	62.1	38	21.5	25	14.1	2	1.1
2007	126	70.8	32	18.0	17	9.6	2	1.1
2008[r]	123	68.7	34	19.0	17	9.5	4	2.2
2009	112	69.1	29	17.9	14	8.6	6	3.7

	Type of firearm					
	Firearm-like weapons[1]		Unknown type		Total	
Year	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	percent of firearm homicides	number of victims	Homicides involving firearms as a percent of total homicides
1999	2	1.2	4	…	165	30.9
2000	0	0.0	4	…	184	33.9
2001	2	1.2	3	…	171	31.1
2002	0	0.0	5	…	152	26.3
2003	0	0.0	4	…	161	29.5
2004	0	0.0	7	…	173	28.0
2005	1	0.5	15	…	223	34.4
2006	2	1.1	13	…	190	32.0
2007	1	0.6	10	…	188	32.2
2008[r]	1	0.6	21	…	200	33.9
2009	1	0.6	17	…	179	30.2

[r] revised
… not applicable.
1. Firearm-like weapons include nail gun, pellet gun, etc.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 5
Gang-related and firearm homicides, census metropolitan areas over 500,000 population, 2009

Census metropolitan area of 500,000 and over population	Gang-related homicides		Firearm homicides	
	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]
Winnipeg	9	1.17	6	0.78
Vancouver	23	0.99	33	1.42
Toronto	30	0.54	49	0.88
Calgary	5	0.41	6	0.49
Edmonton	4	0.34	8	0.69
Montréal	12	0.31	14	0.37
Ottawa	1	0.11	1	0.11
Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo	0	0.00	1	0.19
Hamilton	0	0.00	1	0.14
Québec	0	0.00	0	0.00

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 6
Methods used to commit homicide, Canada, 1999 to 2009

Year	Shooting number of victims	percent	Stabbing number of victims	percent	Beating number of victims	percent	Strangulation or suffocation number of victims	percent	Vehicle number of victims	percent	Fire (smoke inhalation, burns) number of victims	percent
1999	165	31.3	143	27.1	125	23.7	55	10.4	12	2.3	11	2.1
2000	184	34.2	149	27.7	129	24.0	40	7.4	13	2.4	5	0.9
2001	171	31.4	171	31.4	122	22.4	47	8.6	5	0.9	8	1.5
2002	152	27.1	182	32.5	126	22.5	67	12.0	7	1.3	9	1.6
2003	161	30.6	142	26.9	121	23.0	65	12.3	6	1.1	12	2.3
2004	173	28.3	205	33.6	137	22.4	63	10.3	6	1.0	13	2.1
2005	223	34.4	198	30.6	144	22.2	47	7.3	4	0.6	10	1.5
2006	190	32.0	210	35.4	119	20.1	48	8.1	9	1.5	12	2.0
2007	188	33.1	190	33.5	116	20.4	51	9.0	15	2.6	4	0.7
2008[r]	200	33.7	200	33.7	122	20.5	45	7.6	9	1.5	7	1.2
2009	179	30.4	210	35.7	116	19.7	43	7.3	13	2.2	12	2.0

Year	Poisoning number of victims	percent	Shaken baby syndrome number of victims	percent	Other[1] number of victims	percent	Unknown number of victims	percent	Total number of victims	percent
1999	5	0.9	7	1.3	5	0.9	10	…	538	100
2000	4	0.7	12	2.2	2	0.4	8	…	546	100
2001	8	1.5	8	1.5	5	0.9	8	…	553	100
2002	3	0.5	8	1.4	6	1.1	22	…	582	100
2003	6	1.1	8	1.5	6	1.1	22	…	549	100
2004	8	1.3	5	0.8	1	0.2	13	…	624	100
2005	7	1.1	12	1.9	3	0.5	15	…	663	100
2006	1	0.2	3	0.5	1	0.2	13	…	606	100
2007	0	0.0	2	0.4	2	0.4	26	…	594	100
2008[r]	5	0.8	3	0.5	3	0.5	17	…	611	100
2009	9	1.5	4	0.7	2	0.3	22	…	610	100

[r] revised
… not applicable.
1. Other includes exposure/hypothermia, starvation/dehydration, and other methods.
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 7
Youth (12 to 17 years) accused of homicide, Canada, 1999 to 2009

Year	Youth accused			Rate per 100,000 youth population[1]			Total youth as percent of total accused
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
	number			rate			percent
1999	37	9	46	2.92	0.75	1.86	7.7
2000	38	5	43	2.99	0.42	1.74	8.3
2001	27	5	32	2.11	0.41	1.28	5.9
2002	33	9	42	2.54	0.73	1.66	7.7
2003	52	10	62	3.96	0.80	2.43	12.3
2004	39	5	44	2.95	0.40	1.70	8.8
2005	62	10	72	4.64	0.79	2.76	10.9
2006	73	12	85	5.43	0.94	3.24	17.6
2007	66	8	74	4.93	0.63	2.83	13.4
2008	51	4	55	3.86	0.32	2.13	9.7
2009	73	5	78	5.63	0.40	3.08	14.3

1. Population estimates at July 1st 2010 provided by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Estimates are final intercensal from 1999 to 2006, final postcensal for 2007, updated postcensal for 2008 and preliminary postcensal for 2009.
Note: Figures in this table may not match those from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, as that survey includes those under the age of 12 in youth counts.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 8
Solved homicides by accused-victim relationship, Canada

Relationship type[1] (victims killed by)	2009		2008		Average 1999 to 2008	
	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent
Family relationship						
Spousal relationship						
Husband (legal)	22	4.9	22	5.2	23	5.1
Husband (common-law)	13	2.9	10	2.4	20	4.4
Husband (legal, separated and divorced)[2]	6	1.3	9	2.1	15	3.3
Husband (common-law, separated)[3]	8	1.8	4	0.9	2	0.5
Wife (legal)	4	0.9	6	1.4	3	0.7
Wife (common-law)	9	2.0	10	2.4	10	2.2
Wife (legal, separated and divorced)[2]	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Wife (common-law, separated)[3]	2	0.4	1	0.2	0	0.1
Same-sex spouse (current or former)[4]	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2
Total spousal	**65**	**14.3**	**62**	**14.7**	**74**	**16.7**
Non-spousal relationship						
Father[5]	24	5.3	18	4.3	20	4.5
Mother[5]	10	2.2	5	1.2	11	2.4
Son/daughter[5]	19	4.2	20	4.7	21	4.6
Sibling	9	2.0	10	2.4	9	2.0
Other family relation[6]	25	5.5	26	6.1	21	4.8
Total non-spousal	**87**	**19.2**	**79**	**18.7**	**82**	**18.3**
Total family	**152**	**33.6**	**141**	**33.3**	**156**	**35.0**
Acquaintance						
Boyfriend and other intimate (current or former)[7]	20	4.4	24	5.7	16	3.6
Girlfriend and other intimate (current or former)[7]	3	0.7	3	0.7	3	0.7
Close friend	36	7.9	27	6.4	31	6.9
Neighbour	12	2.6	17	4.0	13	2.8
Authority figure	0	0.0	1	0.2	2	0.5
Business relationship (legal)	8	1.8	6	1.4	9	2.0
Casual acquaintance	98	21.6	97	22.9	98	22.0
Total acquaintance	**177**	**39.1**	**175**	**41.4**	**171**	**38.4**

Table 8 (continued)
Solved homicides by accused-victim relationship, Canada

Relationship type[1] (victims killed by)	2009		2008		Average 1999 to 2008	
	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent	number of victims	percent
Criminal relationship[8]	42	9.3	37	8.7	48	10.7
Stranger	82	18.1	70	16.5	71	15.9
Unknown relationship	1	…	1	…	4	…
Total solved homicides	**454**	**100.0**	**424**	**100.0**	**450**	**100.0**
Unsolved homicides	**156**	**…**	**187**	**…**	**137**	**…**
Total homicides	**610**	**…**	**611**	**…**	**587**	**…**

… not applicable

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 separated common-law prior to 2005.
3. Separated common-law husband and separated common-law wife were not introduced to the survey until 2005, therefore the average number and percent are calculated from 2005 to 2007.
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. Includes same-sex boyfriend and/or girlfriend or other intimate relationships.
8. Includes prostitutes, drug dealers and their clients, loansharks, gang members. It should be noted that some gang homicides are scored under "acquaintance".
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 9
Homicide victims and accused persons, by sex, Canada, 1999 to 2009

	Victims					Accused				
	Males		Females		Total	Males		Females		Total
Year	number	percent	number	percent	number	number	percent	number	percent	number
1999	365	67.8	173	32.2	**538**	449	90.2	49	9.8	**498**
2000[1]	397	72.7	149	27.3	**546**	424	88.1	57	11.9	**481**
2001[1]	392	70.9	161	29.1	**553**	449	87.5	64	12.5	**513**
2002[2]	376	64.6	206	35.4	**582**	484	89.1	59	10.9	**543**
2003	391	71.2	158	28.8	**549**	490	88.8	62	11.2	**552**
2004	425	68.1	199	31.9	**624**	533	89.6	62	10.4	**595**
2005	483	72.9	180	27.1	**663**	596	90.4	63	9.6	**659**
2006	444	73.3	162	26.7	**606**	494	87.0	74	13.0	**568**
2007[r]	431	72.6	163	27.4	**594**	484	89.8	55	10.2	**539**
2008	465	76.1	146	23.9	**611**	452	89.9	51	10.1	**503**
2009	450	73.8	160	26.2	**610**	485	89.2	59	10.8	**544**

[r] revised
1. Total of accused excludes two persons whose sex was reported by police as unknown.
2. Total of accused excludes one person whose sex was reported by police as unknown.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Notes

1. There were 3,097 deaths resulting from a traffic accident and 3,511 suicides reported to Statistics Canada, Canadian Vital Statistics–Death Database in 2006, the latest year for which data are available.

2. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a central core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the central core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central core, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.

3. Includes common-law, separated and divorced spouses.

4. Sara Dunn, "Homicides against police officers, 1961 to 2009", *Juristat*, vol. 30, no. 3, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 85-002.