



269 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P8

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

A-2019-00184 / LG

DEC 16 2019

Dennis R. Young
1330 Ravenswood Drive SE
Airdrie, Alberta T4A 0P8

RECEIVED
DEC 20, 2019
[Signature]

Dear Dennis R. Young:

This is further to your request under the *Access to Information Act* for:

***“For the period from October 13, 2018 to present (August 30, 2019) please provide copies of records (records as defined broadly under the Act) with the evidence-based research, reports, studies, statistics, spreadsheets, expert analysis, etc amassed by the department and the Minister's office to inform the Minister's statement:
(1) that 'data on the topic is limited and somewhat flawed'
(2) that 'that a higher rate of crime guns are domestically sourced' and
(3) that 'domestic crime guns have been illegally diverted (straw purchases)' and supported by
(4) the actual number of firearms licenses revoked for the reasons of unauthorized transfer of a non-restricted, restricted or prohibited firearm to an unlicensed individual.”***

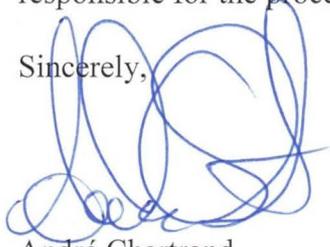
Public Safety Canada has completed the processing of your request. After review, it has been determined that some of the information can be released and a copy is herewith enclosed. Please note that some information has been withheld pursuant to sections 16(2)(a), 21(1)(a), 21(1)(b) of the *Access to Information Act*. A summary of the sections is enclosed.

Please be advised that you are entitled to complain to the Information Commissioner concerning the processing of your request within sixty days of the receipt of this notice. In the event you decide to avail yourself of this right, your notice of complaint should be addressed to:

Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada
30 Victoria Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 1H3
Online : www.oic-ci.gc.ca

Should you require additional information, please contact Lucie Graveson, the analyst responsible for the processing of your request, at (613) 949-0360.

Sincerely,



André Chartrand
Manager, Access to Information and Privacy

Enclosures

Access to Information Sections

16(2)(a) **CRIMINAL METHODS OR TECHNIQUES** The release of the information could reasonably be expected to facilitate the commission of an offence, including, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, any such information on criminal methods or techniques.

21(1)(a) **ADVICE OR RECOMMENDATIONS** Records contain advice or recommendations developed by or for a government institution or a minister of the Crown.

21(1)(b) **CONSULTATIONS OR DELIBERATIONS** Records contain an account of consultations or deliberations in which directors, officers or employees of a government institution, a minister of the Crown or the staff of a minister participate.



Reducing Violent Crime: A Dialogue on Handguns and Assault Weapons

Engagement Paper

Context

The Government of Canada has committed to get handguns and assault rifles off our streets. In support of this, the Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction was charged with developing additional policy, regulations or legislation that could reduce crime involving the use of firearms and keep Canadians safe. In particular, Minister Blair was tasked with leading the examination of a ban on handguns and assault weapons, while not impeding the lawful use of firearms by Canadians. The Prime Minister has publicly committed to examining all options relating to a handgun ban.

Background

In Canada, aspects of the firearms regime are regulated by different levels of government. The federal, provincial, and municipal governments all have responsibilities in ensuring the safety of Canadians with respect to firearms.

Types of firearms

Firearms in Canada are classified by the Criminal Code as falling into one of three classes:

1. Non-restricted (e.g., most ordinary hunting rifles and shotguns – typically known as "long guns"),
2. Restricted (e.g., most handguns and certain semi-automatic firearms), and
3. Prohibited (e.g., small and prescribed handguns and fully automatic firearms).

Individuals may own firearms in the non-restricted and restricted classes if they have the appropriate licence (which, in turn, requires successful completion of the appropriate safety course, background verifications, and other components). Individuals may only own prohibited firearms in exceptional circumstances outlined in the Firearms Act.

The vast majority of owners of handguns and of other firearms in Canada lawfully abide by requirements, and most gun crimes are not committed with legally-owned firearms.

Handguns fall into the restricted class or into the prohibited class when, for example, they are small and easily concealable; therefore, it is currently permissible for Canadians with the appropriate licences to possess certain handguns.

Recent estimates indicate that there are about 900,000 handguns registered to individuals in Canada. In most cases, individuals own handguns either in the context of sport shooting activities or because those handguns form a part of a collection.

"Assault weapon" is not a legally defined term in Canada's firearms legislation. Various international jurisdictions use different terms and definitions, often based on physical characteristics. For illustrative purposes, the US Department of Justice has used the following description: "in general, assault weapons are semiautomatic firearms

Laws and restrictions relating to handguns

The below information is general in nature and should not be considered guidance relating to laws and regulations. For specifics, please consult the Canadian Firearms Program

Ownership. Certain types of handguns – such as those small enough to be easily concealed – are prohibited in Canada, meaning they can only be owned in exceptional circumstances.

To legally own a restricted or prohibited handgun, individuals must hold a Possession and Acquisition Licence with restricted or prohibited privileges. Obtaining a licence requires the successful completion of the appropriate safety course, a background check, and other components.

Registration. All restricted and prohibited handguns in Canada are required to be registered with the Registrar of Firearms. This is distinct from non-restricted firearms; there is no longer a national registry of non-restricted firearms in Canada.

Storing, transporting and carrying handguns. Generally, handguns can only be stored in an approved location and according to regulations – unloaded, locked, in a secure case / gun safe, and separate from ammunition. They can also only be transported to those locations for which the owner has an Authorization to Transport, and regulations outline how they must be transported.

In practice, these restrictions mean individuals cannot carry a handgun on their person or bring it to a non-authorized location. It is only under exceptional circumstances, such as in connection with an individual's lawful occupation, that individuals may be granted authorization to carry a handgun on their person.

with a large magazine¹ of ammunition that were designed and configured for rapid fire."²

Because assault weapon is not a legally-defined term, providing a count of how many are held in Canada is not possible. However, there are about 100,000 legally-owned restricted and prohibited non-handgun firearms – usually rifles and shotguns – registered to individuals. Some of these could have features consistent with what is described as an assault weapon. The number of non-restricted firearms with such features is not known. Individuals own these in the context of sport shooting activities, because they form a part of a collection, or for hunting.

In Canada, there are also limits on the number of cartridges³ a firearm magazine can hold – ten for semi-automatic handguns and five for other centre-fire⁴ semi-automatic firearms. Magazines of a larger capacity are prohibited.

¹ A magazine is a device or container from which ammunition is fed into the firing chamber of a firearm.

² US Department of Justice, Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act (known as the Federal Assault Weapon Ban), enacted in 1994 and expired in 2004.

³ A cartridge contains a projectile designed to be discharged from a firearm (for example, a shot shell).

⁴ A centre-fire cartridge is one where the primer is located in the centre of the cartridge case head.

Gun crime

Gun violence is a serious concern. Data from Statistics Canada show that firearm-related violent crime has increased in recent years, despite the fact that the rate of violent crime, generally, has modestly decreased. In 2016, more than half (60%) of firearm-related violent crimes involved handguns. Statistics Canada has also concluded that much of the increase in firearm-related violent crime in recent years has been driven by increases in violent crime where a handgun was present.

Patterns in this area can vary geographically. For example, handguns represent more than double the proportion of firearms seized by law enforcement in Montreal and Toronto compared to elsewhere in Canada.

Just as there have been overall increases in gun violence, there have also been increases in the number of victims. About two-thirds of victims of gun violence are male; however, according to Statistics Canada, about 85% of the 694 victims of police-reported intimate partner violence incidents involving a firearm in 2016 were women. Also, the rate of firearm-related violent crime in Canada is nearly twice as high in the north as it is in the south, and Indigenous persons are the victims of homicides involving firearms at a much higher rate (13.5%) than would be expected given their representation within the Canadian population.

Illicit firearms

Many handguns and other firearms used in gun violence are illicit and entered the market via theft from law-abiding individuals or businesses, straw purchasing (i.e., the legal purchase of a handgun or other firearm by a licenced individual who then diverts the firearm to the illicit market) or smuggling. Given these handguns and other firearms are not in the legal market and their number and characteristics are therefore hidden, comprehensive data on the relative proportion from each source is not available. Moreover, even when these are seized by law enforcement, it is not always possible to determine their original source. However, recently, a number of law enforcement agencies have indicated that they perceive that the relative proportion of illicit

firearms from domestic sources, as opposed to from smuggling, has been growing.

Any ban of handguns or assault weapons would primarily affect legal firearms owners, while the illicit market would be indirectly affected as there would be fewer available to potentially divert.

Theft

Thefts from legal owners represent a growing source of illegally-acquired domestic handguns and other firearms. Statistics Canada reports a 70% increase in break and enters to steal a firearm between 2010 and 2017 (from 673 to 1,175 incidents), with greater increases in the Western provinces. Information is not available regarding whether thefts were from individuals or businesses.

There may be cases in which thefts are related to improper storage or transportation of firearms. Exact data in this area is not available.

Straw purchasing

Individuals involved in straw purchasing may be: individuals who purchase handguns or other firearms legally for illegal resale to anyone willing to pay, or individuals who knowingly purchase on behalf of others who do not have a licence. There are examples of significant volumes of firearms being involved in straw purchase schemes, with, for instance, 200 firearms seized from a single straw purchaser in 2014.

Firearms smuggling

Though the proportion of illicit handguns and other firearms in Canada that are domestically sourced is reported to be increasing, smuggling – typically from the US – continues to be an issue in specific regions of Canada (e.g. Southern Ontario and the Pacific Coast). The Canada Border Services Agency plays an active role in preventing them from being introduced illegally to Canada at the border, and, in 2017-18, seized 751 handguns and other firearms.

Storage and transportation regulations

The below information is general in nature and should not be considered guidance relating to laws and regulations. For specifics, please consult the [Canadian Firearms Program](#).

Regulations for individuals storing handguns and other firearms include requiring that these be unloaded, stored separately from ammunition (with some exceptions), and that restricted and prohibited handguns and other firearms be stored in a container, receptacle or room that is kept securely locked and cannot readily be broken into, or stored in a locked vault, safe, or room specifically intended for this purpose.

Separate regulations exist for the storage of handguns and other firearms by businesses. These include requiring that firearms be unloaded, stored in a locked cabinet, vault, safe, or location, or in an area only accessible to staff, that there be an electronic burglar alarm and that all points of entry, including windows, can be securely locked. When businesses are displaying handguns and other firearms, additional requirements are in place, such as having the firearm affixed to a wall or similar fixture via chain or cable.

There are also legislative requirements and regulations relating to transportation which contribute to public safety and reduced opportunities for theft. These include obligations that handguns and other firearms be unloaded and transported in a securely locked container and/or compartment when the vehicle is unattended. The specific requirements vary depending on the class of firearm. Transporting handguns – as well as other restricted or prohibited firearms – (e.g., to a shooting range) requires authorization.

International experience

Jurisdictions differ in their approaches to controlling handguns and assault weapons. For example, Australia and the UK have both enacted bans that limit or prohibit handguns. Federally, the US enacted a federal ban on assault weapons, but this ban expired in 2004 and no federal legislation to renew or replace the ban has since been enacted. In all cases the data does not conclusively demonstrate that these handgun or assault weapon bans have led to reductions in gun violence, though some studies drew other conclusions. The variation in study results reflects the fact that patterns of gun violence are influenced by many factors and the impact cannot be attributed to one factor.

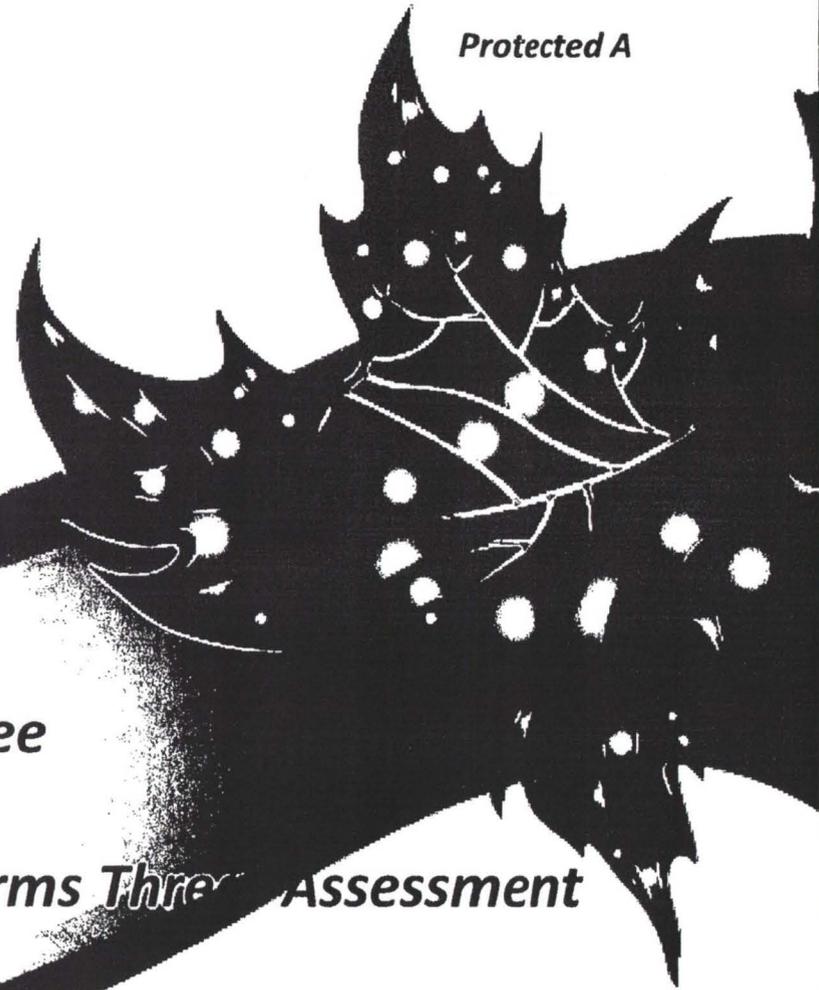
Some other jurisdictions have focused on approaches other than those discussed above – including, amnesties and buy-backs allowing those in possession of illicit handguns or other firearms to turn them in without criminal liability, and sometimes for compensation; stricter controls on the sale and/or storage of ammunition; handgun and other firearm markings regimes; and, educational campaigns.

Other strategies

Other strategies for reducing gun violence that have been identified in Canada and other countries include requirements for flagging of large and unusual purchases – that is, implementing systems that would facilitate the identification of purchase patterns that may be indicative of straw purchasing – and reporting obligations relating to mental health of those who own firearms. In the latter case, it is important to recognize that there is a large body of evidence that in a general sense, mental health diagnoses are not associated with increased risk of violence. It is only in very few cases that mental health challenges reflect greater likelihood of harm to self or to others.

Limitations on advertising – especially as relates to assault weapons – have also been suggested as a possible tool in limiting interest. This area is challenging given that much of the advertising to which Canadians are exposed comes from elsewhere via the Internet. In Canada, the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards (self-regulatory guidelines to which advertisers generally adhere) indicates that advertisements shall not “appear in a realistic manner to exploit, condone, or incite violence.”

Protected A



*Presentation to the
Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee*

SC 2018-19 National Strategic Firearms Threat Assessment

Criminal Intelligence Service Canada

February 20th, 2019

Canada



Criminal Intelligence Service Canada

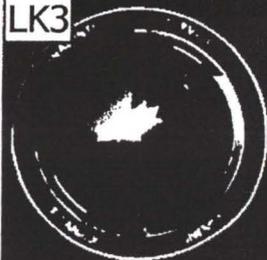
CISC – Who we are

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- Network representing 400 law enforcement & related agencies from across Canada.
- Reports to National Executive Committee.
- CISC Central Bureau located in Ottawa, and is stewarded by the RCMP.
- Ten Provincial Bureaus reporting to respective Provincial Executive Committees.

LK3



Criminal Intelligence Service Canada

CISC – What We Do

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- Strategically focused organization.
- Criminal intelligence to detect, reduce and prevent organized and serious crime affecting Canada.
- Ensures the timely exchange of criminal intelligence among CISC member agencies.
- Supports the national effort to detect, reduce and prevent organized and other serious crime affecting Canada.
- Advises senior law enforcement and government officials, at the municipal, provincial and federal levels.

Slide 3

LK3

Lamontagne, Ken, 3/5/2018

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National Strategic Firearms Threat Assessment



- Bi-annual assessment - illicit firearms situation in Canada.
- Produced in support of the Initiative to Combat the Criminal Use of Firearms (ICCUF).
- Assesses the threat posed by illicit firearms in Canada.
- Informs decision-makers & enhances the understanding of illicit firearms trafficking in Canada.

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National Strategic Firearms Threat Assessment



- Over 500 OCG in Canada use violence to further their criminal activities, and most of these groups rely on firearms.
- Approximately 9 of every 10 organized crime-related homicides are committed with a firearm.



National Strategic Firearms Threat Assessment

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- Cities with higher volumes of firearms-related violence have a significant street gang presence & firearm-related violence appears to follow the geographic expansion of street gangs.

- Street gangs engage in spontaneous, opportunistic shootings & firearm-related homicides [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- Street gang members are now more confident in their ability to carry firearms.



National Strategic Firearms Threat Assessment

Protected A



- Number of rounds fired per firearm incident is increasing due to the growing use of semi-automatic weapons.
- Handguns are the most commonly used firearm in homicides committed in urban areas. Urban street gangs, specifically in Ontario, are believed to increasingly rely on handguns rather than long guns (rifles and shotguns).
- Long guns are most frequently used in homicides in rural areas, especially in the Prairie provinces.



National Strategic Firearms Threat Assessment

Protected A



- Long guns make up the vast majority of criminal investigation seizures, suggesting they may be used in other types of violent crime (i.e. intimidation, robberies)
- Most successfully traced handguns in Ontario used in violent crimes are sourced in the United States, while rifles/shotguns are sourced domestically.



National Strategic Firearms Threat Assessment

Protected A



- An increase in the seizure of firearms illicitly manufactured in Canada suggests that organized crime and firearm traffickers are trying to circumvent current regulations and border security.





Criminal Intelligence Service Canada
CISC

Protected A

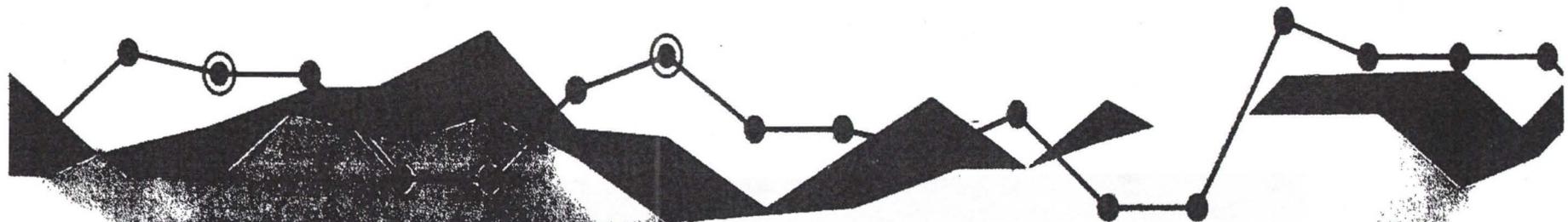


de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information

QUESTIONS?
Thank You

Canada

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Firearm-related crime in Canada

Yvan Clermont, Director

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

February 20, 2019

Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee

Delivering insight through data, for a better Canada

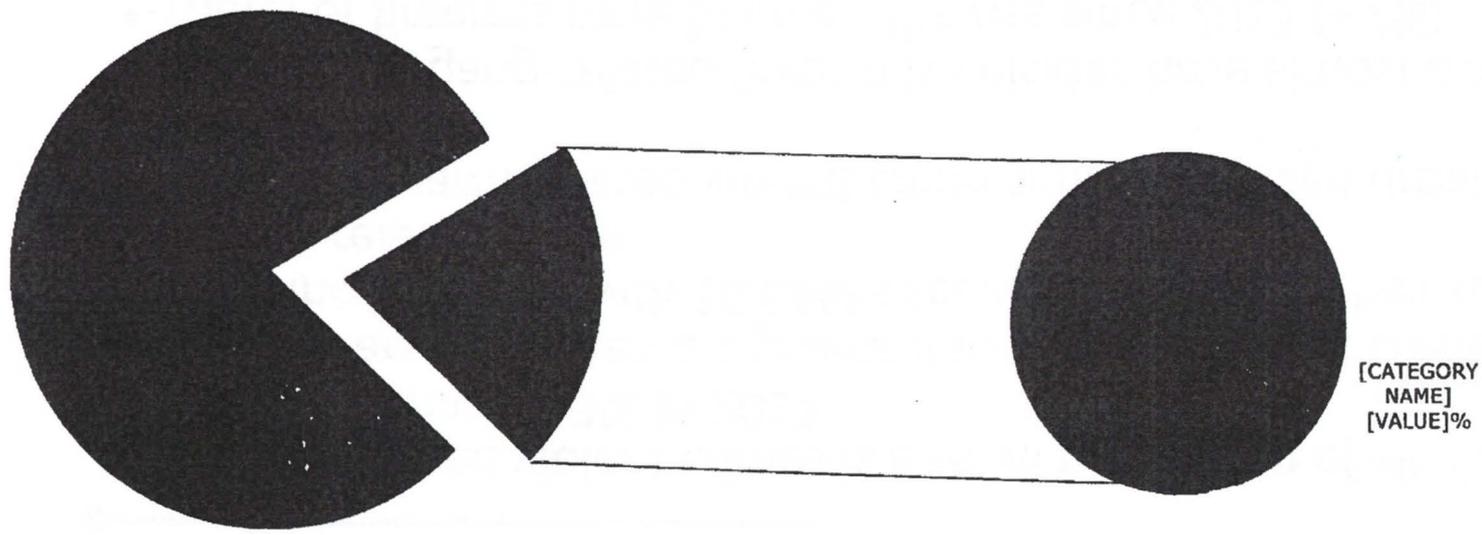


Canada

KEY FINDINGS

- Firearm-related violent crimes is a small proportion of all violent crime in Canada – 3% in 2017
- Past 4 years have seen a significant increase in violent crime involving firearms, with 16 CMAs seeing increases in their rates of firearm related crime
- Rates of firearm-related violent crime similar between urban and rural regions
- Since 2013, gang-related firearm homicides have almost doubled
- Thefts of firearms have been on the rise since 2013 (+7%)
- There are a few data gaps related to gun crime – origins of the guns, whether gun crime is linked to organized crime

GUN CRIME IS LESS THAN ONE HALF OF ONE PERCENT OF OVERALL POLICE-REPORTED CRIME IN CANADA



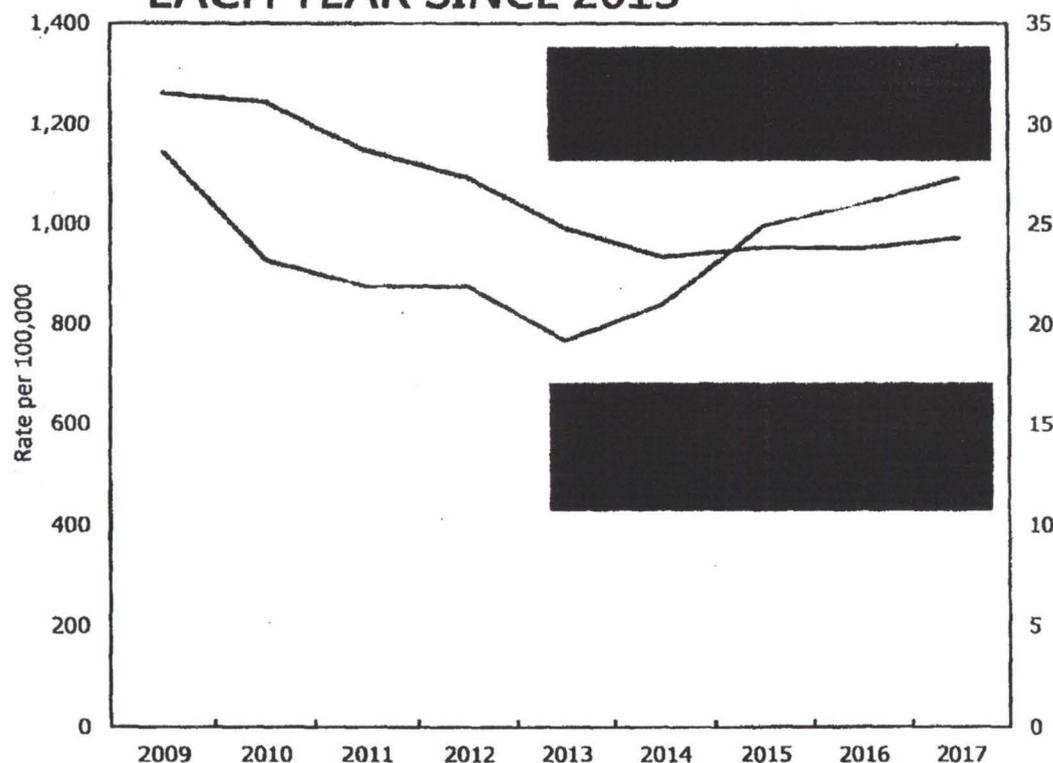
(Excludes Québec)

In 2017, a small proportion of police-reported violent crime involved firearms – 3%. However, these incidents involved more than 7,700 victims.



Canada

POLICE-REPORTED CRIME INVOLVING FIREARMS HAS INCREASED EACH YEAR SINCE 2013



(Excludes Québec)

What we know

Since 2013:

- Overall police-reported crime rate up 3%
- Violent crime rate stable
- The rate of firearm-related violent crime was 42% higher in 2017 than four years prior



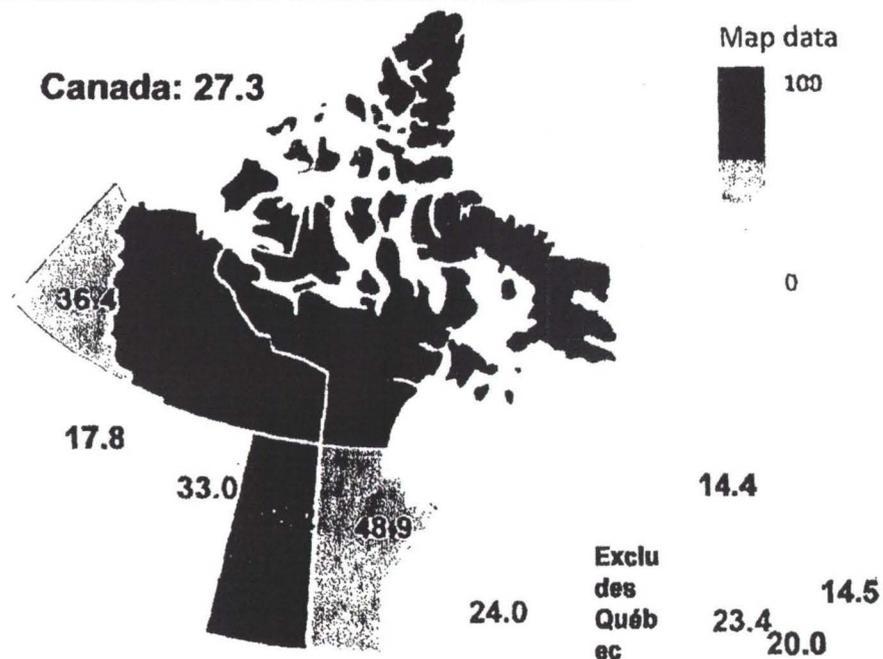
Canada

FIREARM RELATED CRIME IS A REGIONAL STORY

- Firearm-related violent crime rates and incident characteristics vary across the country
 - Overall, rates are highest in the Prairies and the Territories
 - Unlike many other types of crime, rates of firearm-related violent crime are similar in rural and urban areas
 - More than two-thirds of firearm-related violent crime in urban areas involves handguns
 - Rifles or shotguns are more commonly involved in rural firearm-related violent crime



NUNAVUT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND SASKATCHEWAN HAVE HIGHEST RATES OF FIREARM-RELATED VIOLENT CRIME, 2017

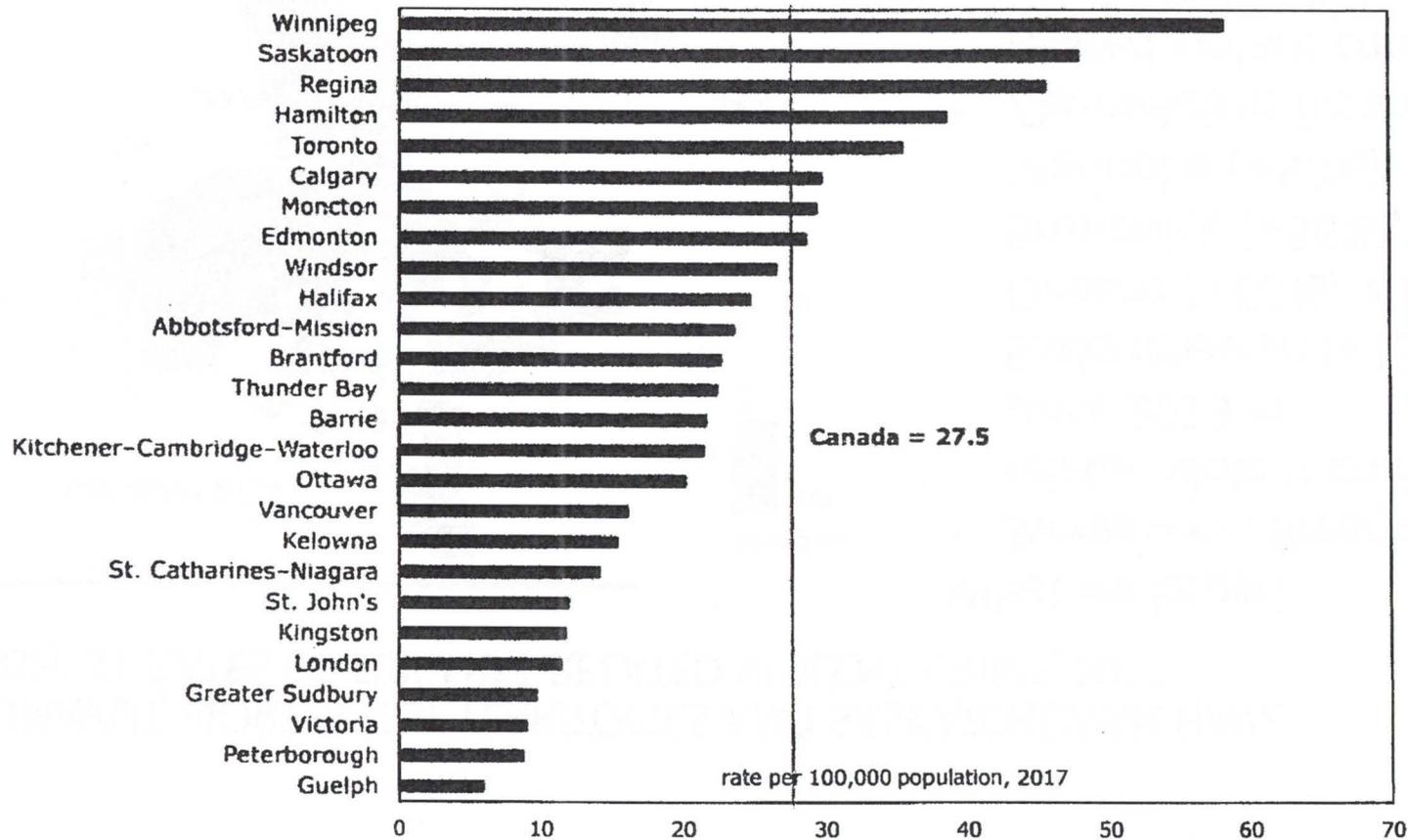


What we know?

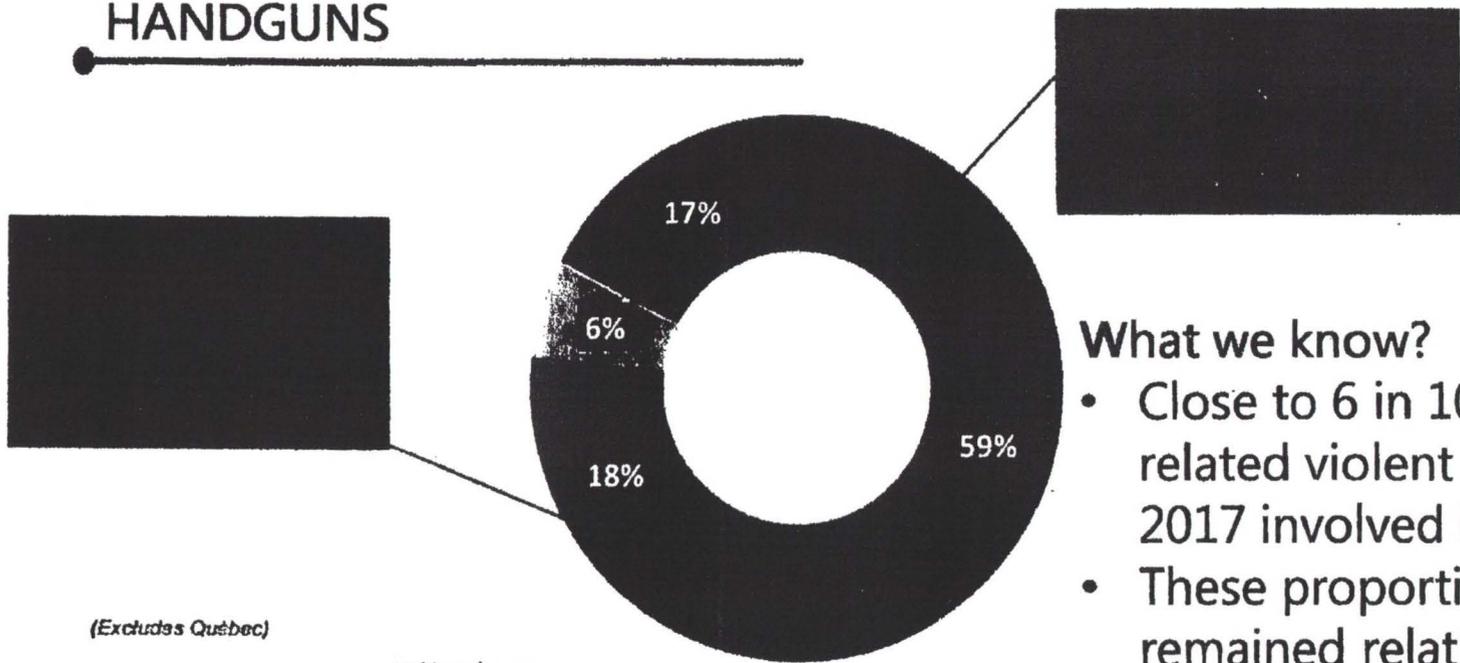
- *Increases* in firearm related violent crime since 2013 in Saskatchewan (+137%), Ontario (+60%), New Brunswick (+56%), Manitoba (+50%)
- *Decreases* in firearm related violent crime since 2013 in British Columbia (-9%)



IN TERMS OF VOLUME, GUN CRIME TENDS TO BE CONCENTRATED WITHIN LARGER CITIES



MOST POLICE-REPORTED VIOLENT GUN CRIME INVOLVES HANDGUNS



(Excludes Québec)

- Handguns
- Rifle/shotgun
- Fully automatic firearm or sawed-off rifle/shotgun
- Firearm-like weapon or unknown type of firearm

What we know?

- Close to 6 in 10 firearm-related violent crimes in 2017 involved handguns
- These proportions have remained relatively consistent since 2009



Canada

GUN CRIMES TYPICALLY COMMITTED BY STRANGERS

- In 2017, close to 6 in 10 (58%) victims of firearm-related violent crime were victimized by a stranger – very different than most other types of crime, where the accused tends to be known to the victim. .
- This proportion has been consistent each year since 2010, and was slightly higher in 2009 (65%).

Just under one in ten violent gun crimes involved intimate partners

- There were 582 victims of firearm-related violent crime where the accused person was the victim's spouse, common-law partner, boyfriend, or girlfriend, representing 8% of all victims of firearm-related violent crime in 2017.

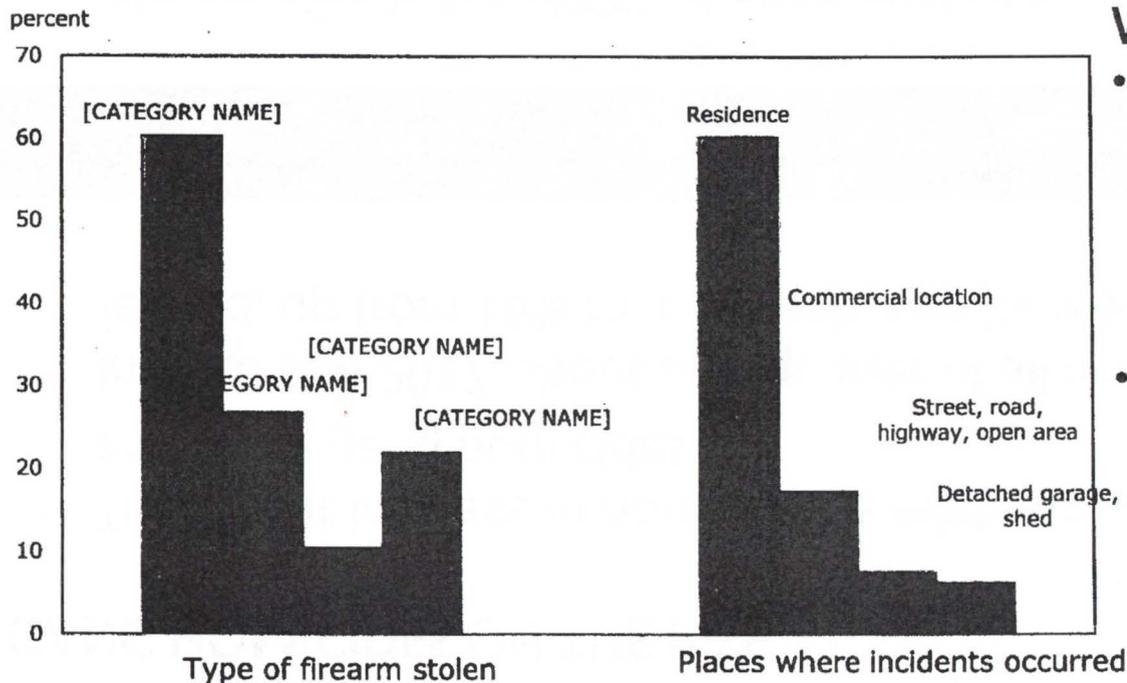
GANG HOMICIDES ON THE RISE

- The recent increase in homicides is related to more gun homicides and more gang homicides.
- In 2016 and 2017, about one-quarter of all homicides were gang-related, up from 16% to 17% each year between 2010 and 2015

The majority of gang-related homicides involve guns

- Almost nine in ten (87%) of gang-related homicides in Canada were committed with a firearm – usually a handgun
- 27% of homicides that were not gang-related involved a firearm

THERE WERE 3,603 INCIDENTS WHERE AT LEAST ONE FIREARM WAS REPORTED AS STOLEN PROPERTY IN 2017



What we know

- The majority of guns reported as stolen property were rifles, and the majority of thefts were from a private residence
- There were 9.9 incidents where a firearm was stolen for every 100,000 Canadians in 2017, up from 2013 but down from its peak in 2015 (11.7)

POLICE-REPORTED CRIME INVOLVING FIREARMS, CANADA, 2009 TO 2017

Year	Break and enter		Unsafe storage	
	number	rate per 100,000	number	rate per 100,000
2009	309	0.9	1,208	3.6
2010	673	2.0	1,196	3.5
2011	772	2.3	1,077	3.1
2012	913	2.6	1,115	3.2
2013	918	2.6	1,053	3.0
2014	1,000	2.8	990	2.8
2015	1,164	3.2	962	2.7
2016	1,272	3.5	993	2.7
2017	1,175	3.2	921	2.5

Note: Break and enter includes the Criminal Code offences of break and enter to steal a firearm and break and enter of a motor vehicle to steal a firearm.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.



Canada

DATA GAPS: FIREARM-RELATED VIOLENT CRIME

Origin of firearms
(from Canada? diverted from the legal market? smuggled into Canada from elsewhere?)

Involvement of Organized Crime
(in offences other than homicide)

Characteristics of firearms

Shootings where no injury caused
(e.g. drive-by)

Ethnicity and socio-economic characteristics of victims and offenders

Indigenous identity of victims and offenders for all criminal incidents





QUESTIONS



Canada

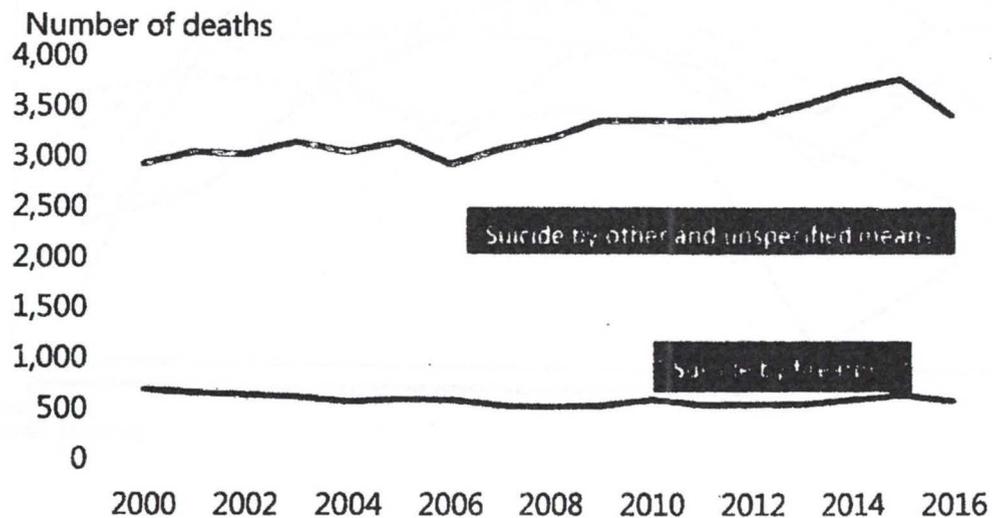


EXTRA SLIDES



Canada

SINCE 2000, THERE HAVE BEEN 9,919 SUICIDES BY FIREARM IN CANADA – AN AVERAGE OF 583 PER YEAR



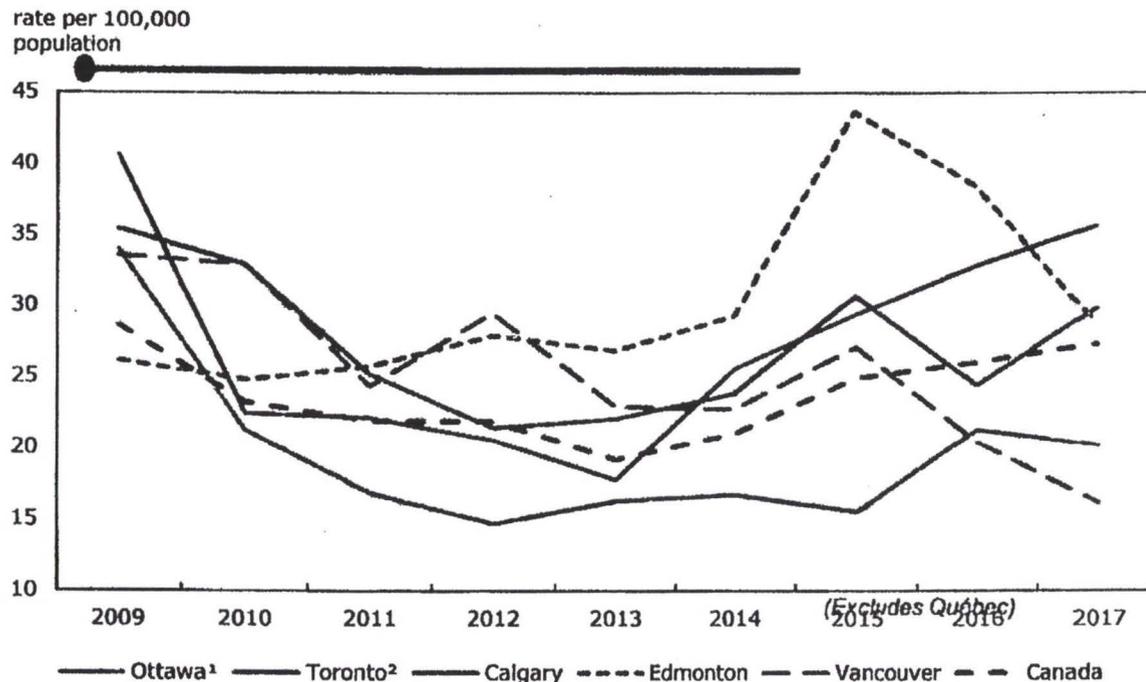
What we know:

- There were 570 suicides by firearm in Canada in 2016 – 14% of all suicide deaths
- There have been between 1.5 and 1.8 deaths by suicide by firearm per 100,000 population each year since 2004
- Since 2000, men have accounted for 96% of suicides by firearm, versus 72% of suicides by other means



Canada

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CANADA'S LARGEST CITIES?



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

2. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.

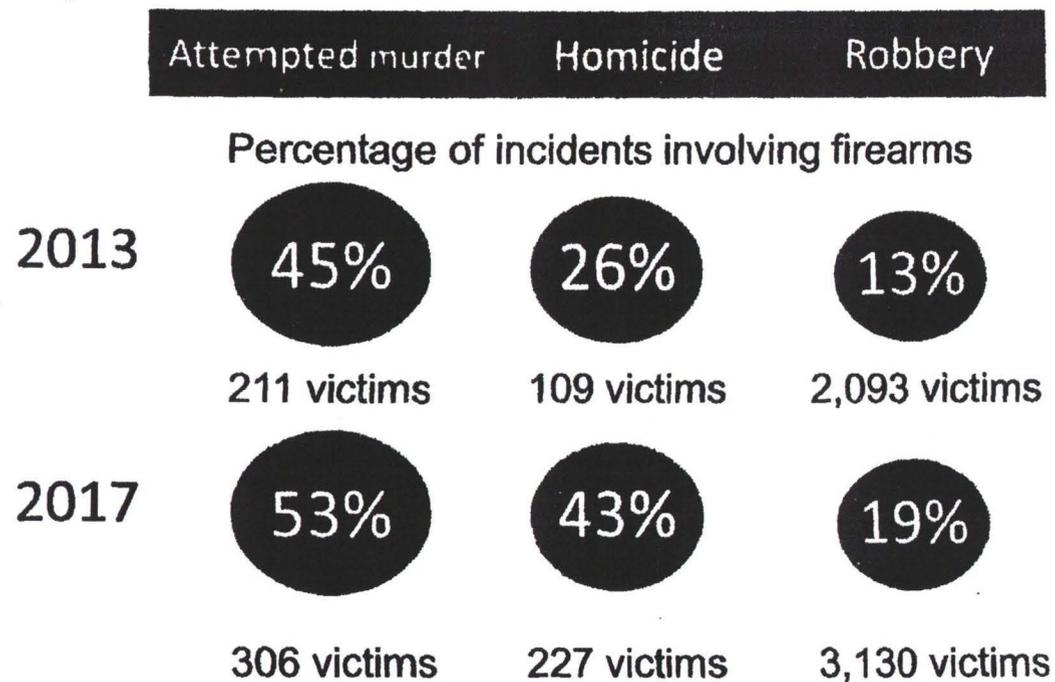
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

What we know?

- 43% of the national increase since 2013 is due to more victims in Toronto.
- Between 2013 and 2017, 16 of Canada's census metropolitan areas saw increases in their rate of firearm-related violent crime, including 4 of the 5 largest – Vancouver was the exception.



THE USE OF FIREARMS IN THE MOST SERIOUS VIOLENT CRIMES HAS INCREASED

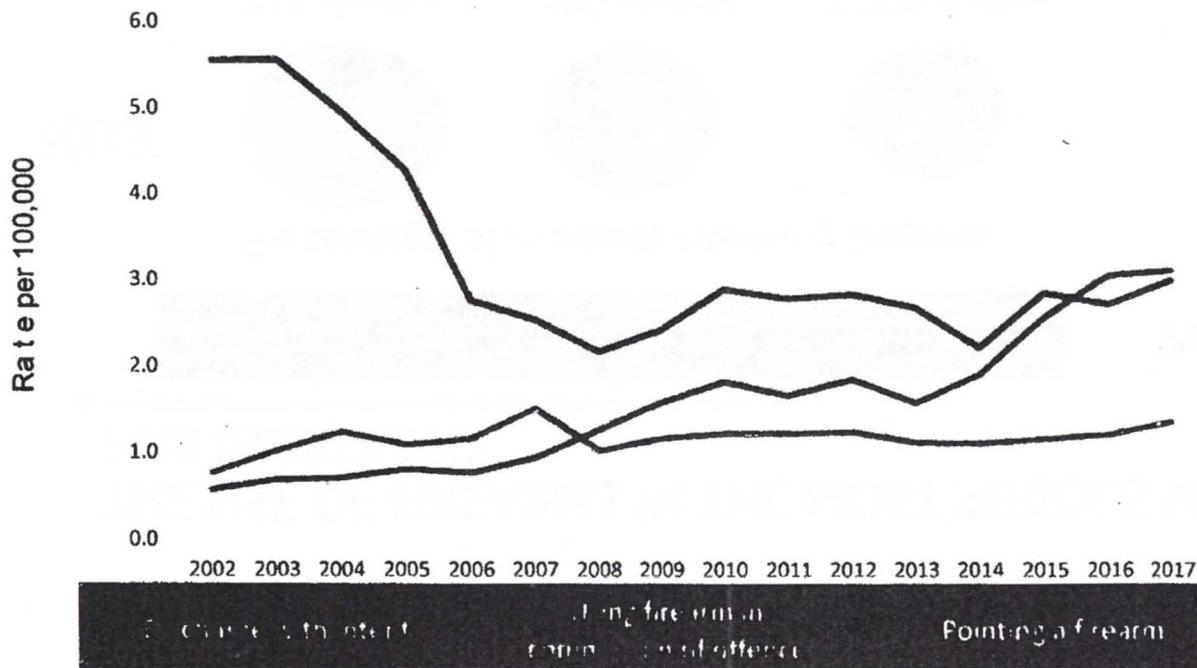


What we know?

- Attempted murder and robbery both saw increases in the number of victims
- The number of shooting homicide victims more than doubled from 2013 to 2017

RECENT INCREASE IN FIREARMS OFFENCES DRIVEN BY MORE INCIDENTS OF DISCHARGING WITH INTENT

Firearms offences, Canada, 2002 to 2017



What do we know?

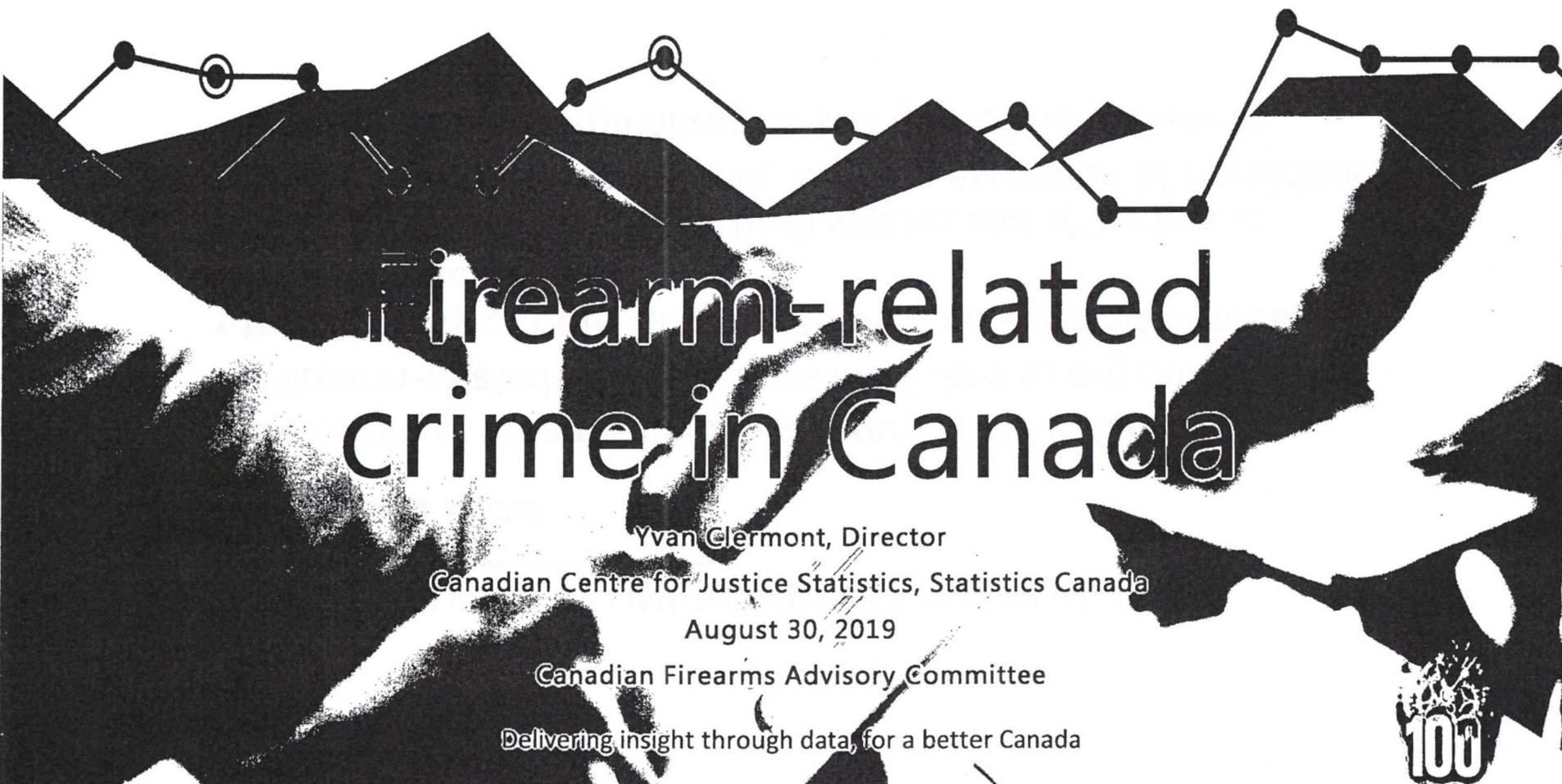
- In 2016 and 2017, unlike previous years, there were more incidents of discharging a firearm with intent than pointing a firearm
- In 2017, the rate of these violent firearm offences increased for the third year in a row



THERE ARE STILL MANY UNKNOWNNS ABOUT GUN CRIME ...

What we *don't know*

- the origin of firearms involved in gun crime in Canada
- if firearm-related violent crimes are linked to organized crime
- the ethnicity of both victims and persons accused of firearm-related violent crime
- the Indigenous identity of both victims and offenders in firearm-related violent crime, with the exception of homicides
- enough about marginalization and gun crime in Canada



Firearm-related crime in Canada

Yvan Clermont, Director

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

August 30, 2019

Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee

Delivering insight through data, for a better Canada



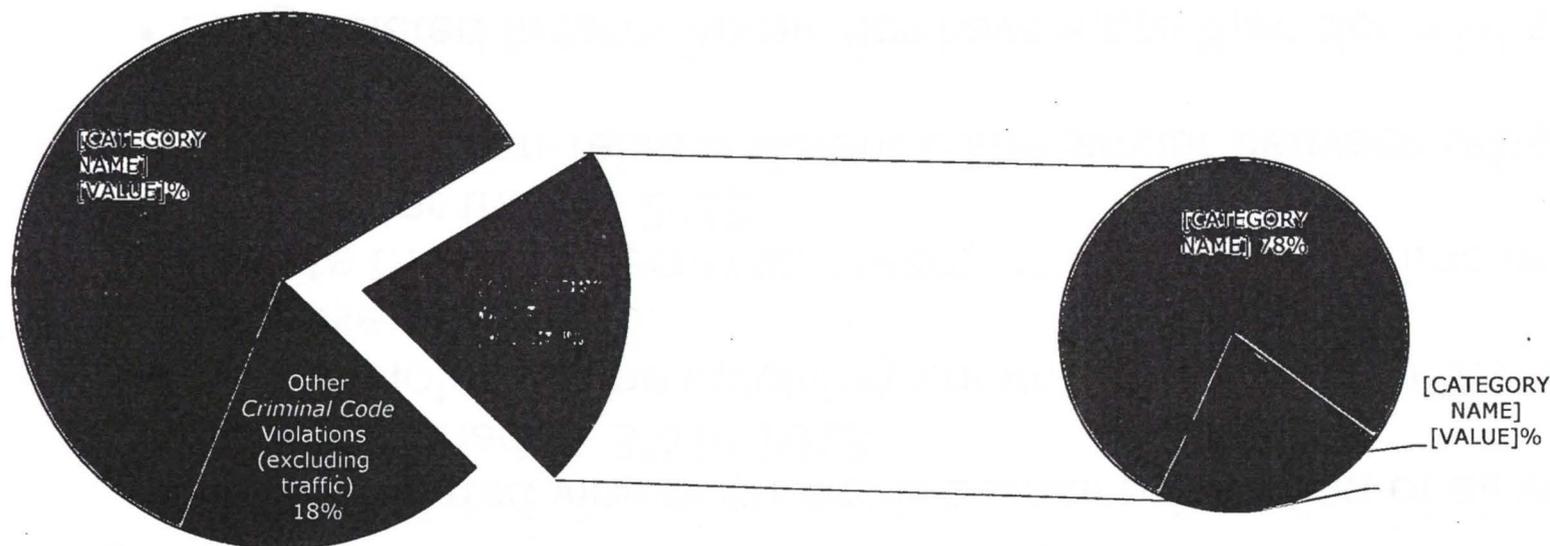


KEY FINDINGS

- Firearm-related violent crimes is a small proportion of all violent crime in Canada – 3% in 2018.
- In 2018 violent crime involving firearms decreased by 5%, the first decrease since 2013.
- Despite the 2018 decrease, firearm-related violent crime remains 37% higher than in 2013.
- Rates of firearm-related violent crime similar between urban and rural regions
- Gang-related firearm homicides have more than doubled since 2013
- There are a few data gaps related to gun crime – origins of the guns, links to organized crime (coverage issues)



GUN CRIME IS LESS THAN ONE HALF OF ONE PERCENT OF OVERALL POLICE-REPORTED CRIME IN CANADA

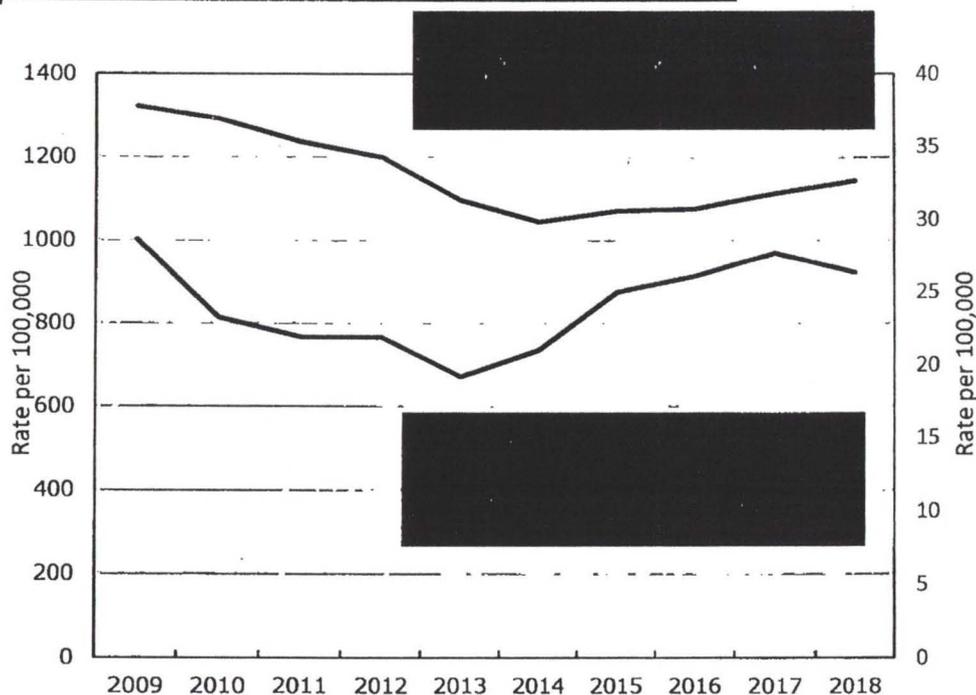


(Excludes Québec)

In 2018, a small proportion of police-reported violent crime involved firearms – 3%. However, these incidents involved about 7,500 victims.



POLICE-REPORTED CRIME INVOLVING FIREARMS HAS DECREASED FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2013

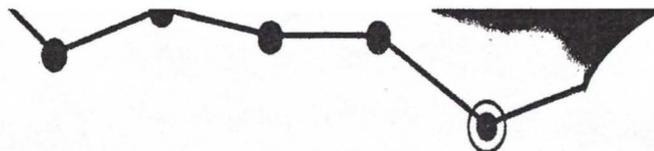
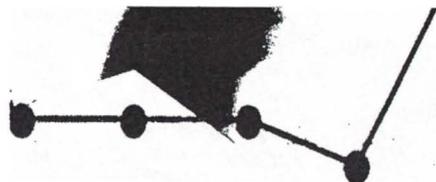


What we know

Since 2013:

- Overall police-reported crime rate up 5%
- Violent crime rate up 4%
- The rate of firearm-related violent crime decreased by 5% from the previous year but still 37% higher in 2018 than five years prior

(Excludes Québec)

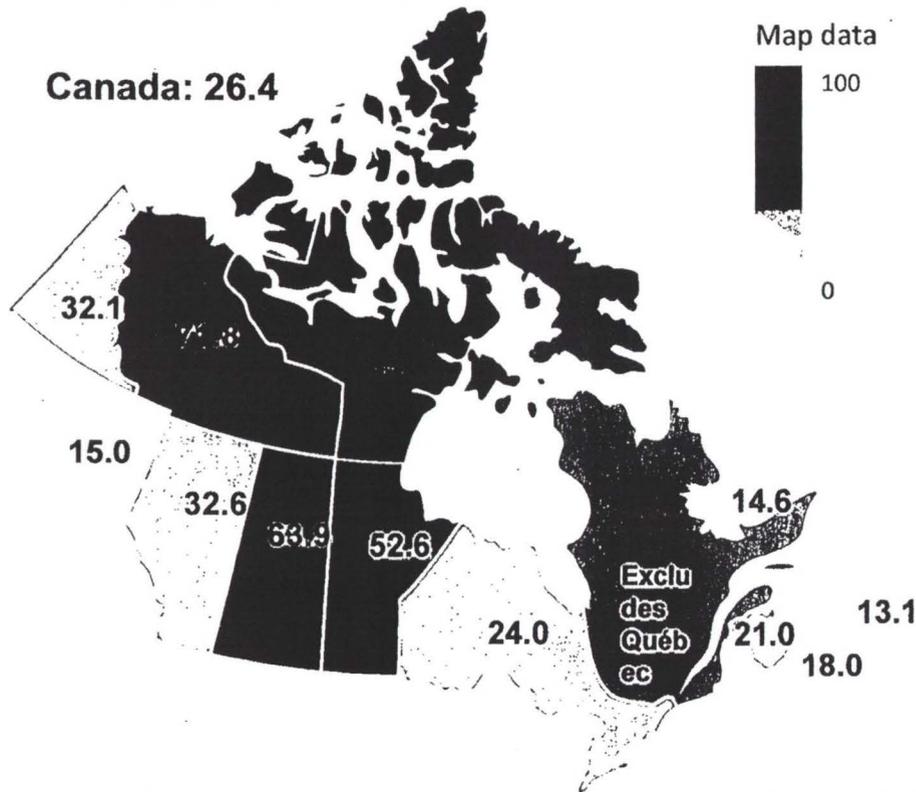


FIREARM RELATED CRIME IS A REGIONAL STORY

- Firearm-related violent crime rates and incident characteristics vary across the country
 - Overall, rates are highest in the Prairies and the Territories
 - Unlike many other types of crime, rates of firearm-related violent crime are similar in rural and urban areas
 - More than two-thirds of firearm-related violent crime in urban areas involves handguns
 - Rifles or shotguns are more commonly involved in rural firearm-related violent crime



NUNAVUT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND SASKATCHEWAN HAVE HIGHEST RATES OF FIREARM-RELATED VIOLENT CRIME, 2018

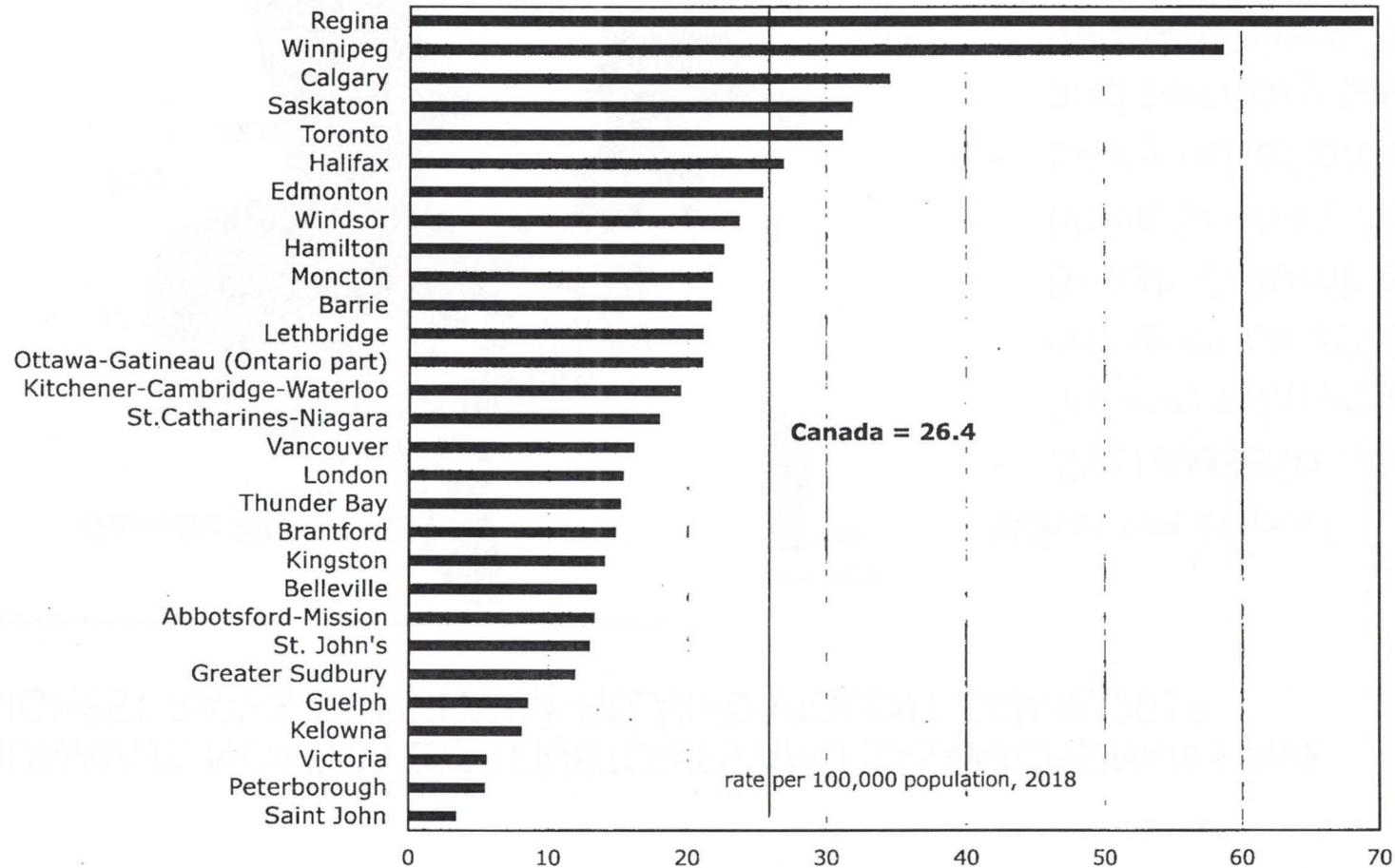


What we know?

- *Decreases* in rates of firearm related violent crime since 2013 in British Columbia (-23%), Nova Scotia (-8%)
- Every other province and territory saw an increase since 2013.



IN TERMS OF VOLUME, GUN CRIME TENDS TO BE CONCENTRATED WITHIN LARGER CITIES

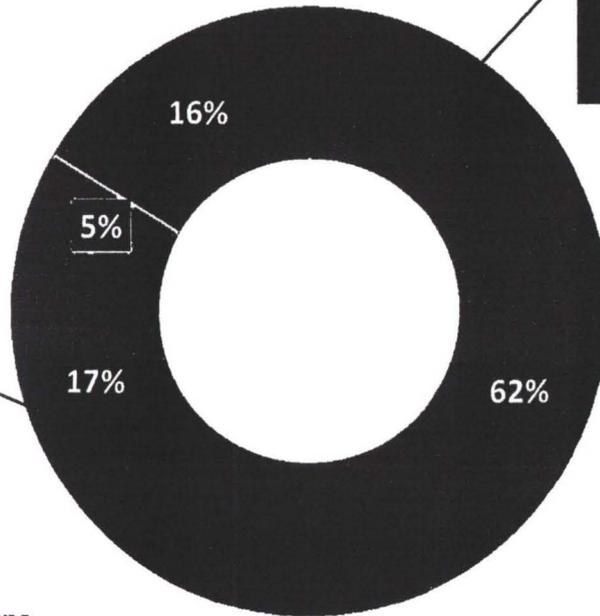




MOST POLICE-REPORTED VIOLENT GUN CRIME INVOLVES HANDGUNS

In 2018, 73% of all violent gun crimes in urban Canada involved handguns

In 2018, 42% of all violent gun crimes in urban Canada involved rifles or shotguns

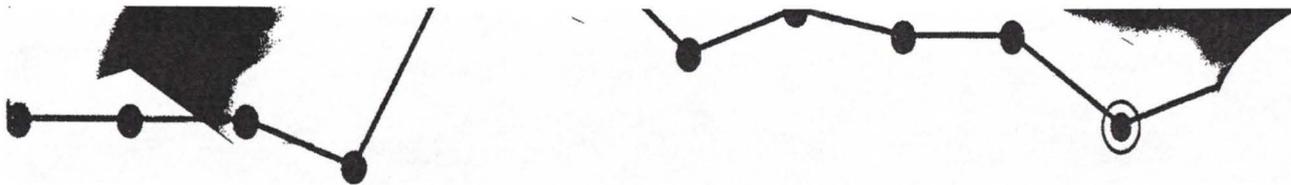


What we know?

- About 6 in 10 firearm-related violent crimes in 2018 involved handguns
- These proportions have remained relatively consistent since 2009

(Excludes Québec)

- Handguns
- Rifle/shotgun
- Fully automatic firearm or sawed-off rifle/shotgun
- Firearm-like weapon or unknown type of firearm



GUN CRIMES TYPICALLY COMMITTED BY STRANGERS

- In 2018, close to 6 in 10 (59%) victims of firearm-related violent crime were victimized by a stranger – very different than most other types of crime, where the accused tends to be known to the victim.
- This proportion has been consistent each year since 2010, and was slightly higher in 2009 (64%).

Just under one in ten violent gun crimes involved intimate partners

- There were 593 victims of firearm-related violent crime where the accused person was the victim's spouse, common-law partner, boyfriend, or girlfriend, representing 8% of all victims of firearm-related violent crime in 2018.



GANG HOMICIDES DECLINE IN 2018

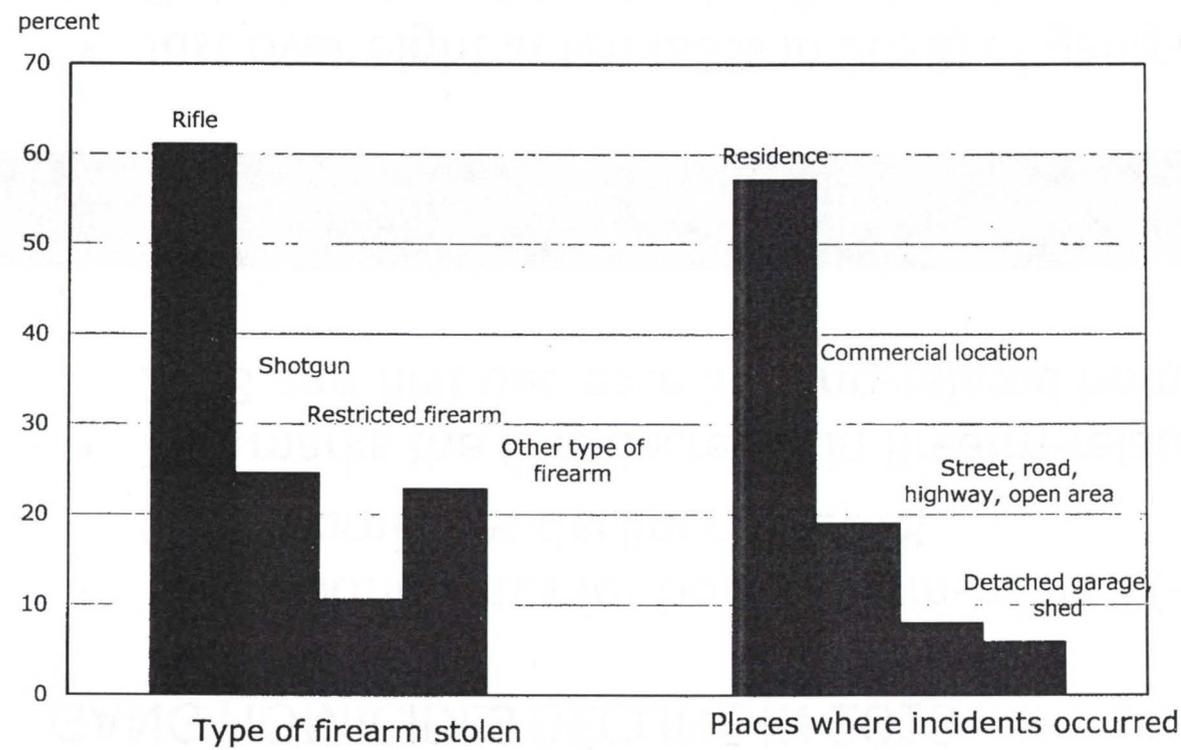
- The national rates for both firearm-related (-8%) and gang-related (-5%) homicides declined in 2018.
- This marks the first decrease in firearm-related homicides since 2013 and first decrease in gang-related homicides since 2014.

The majority of gang-related homicides involve guns

- Just over eight in ten (83% in 2018) of gang-related homicides in Canada were committed with a firearm – usually a handgun (70% of gang- and firearm-related homicides)
- 27% of homicides that were not gang-related involved a firearm

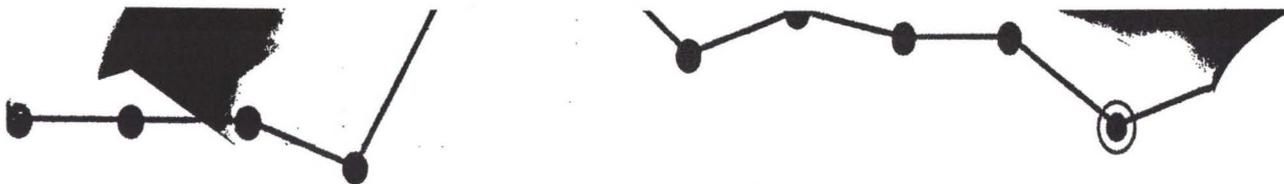


THERE WERE 3,504 INCIDENTS WHERE AT LEAST ONE FIREARM WAS REPORTED AS STOLEN PROPERTY IN 2018



What we know

- The majority of guns reported as stolen property were rifles, and the majority of thefts were from a private residence
- There were 9.5 incidents where a firearm was stolen for every 100,000 Canadians in 2018, up from 2013 but down from its peak in 2015 (11.7)



POLICE-REPORTED CRIME INVOLVING FIREARMS, CANADA, 2009 TO 2018

Year	Break and enter		Unsafe storage	
	number	rate per 100,000	number	rate per 100,000
2009	309	0.9	1,208	3.6
2010	673	2.0	1,196	3.5
2011	772	2.2	1,077	3.1
2012	913	2.6	1,115	3.2
2013	918	2.6	1,053	3.0
2014	1,000	2.8	990	2.8
2015	1,164	3.3	962	2.7
2016	1,272	3.5	993	2.7
2017	1,171	3.2	934	2.6
2018	1,068	2.9	875	2.4



DATA GAPS: FIREARM-RELATED VIOLENT CRIME

Origin of firearms
(from Canada? diverted from
the legal market? smuggled
into Canada from elsewhere?)

Involvement of
Organized Crime
(coverage issues)

Characteristics of
firearms

Shootings where no
injury caused
(e.g. drive-by)

Ethnicity and socio-
economic
characteristics of
victims and
offenders

Indigenous identity
of victims and
offenders for all
criminal incidents



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

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QUESTIONS



Statistics Canada
Statistique Canada

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EXTRA SLIDES



Statistics
Canada

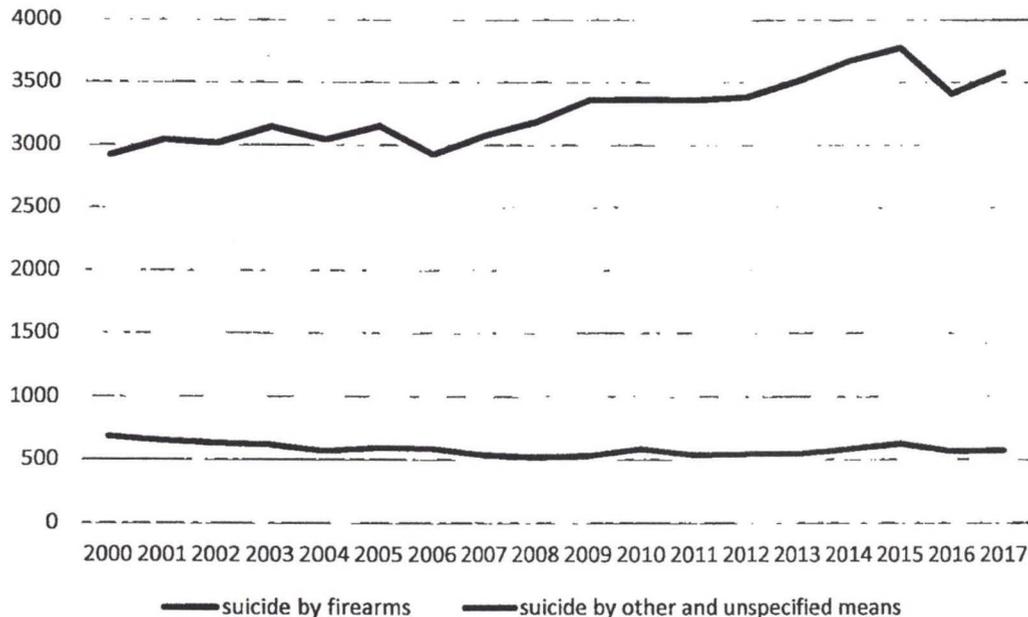
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Canada



SINCE 2000, THERE HAVE BEEN 10,498 SUICIDES BY FIREARM IN CANADA – AN AVERAGE OF 583 PER YEAR



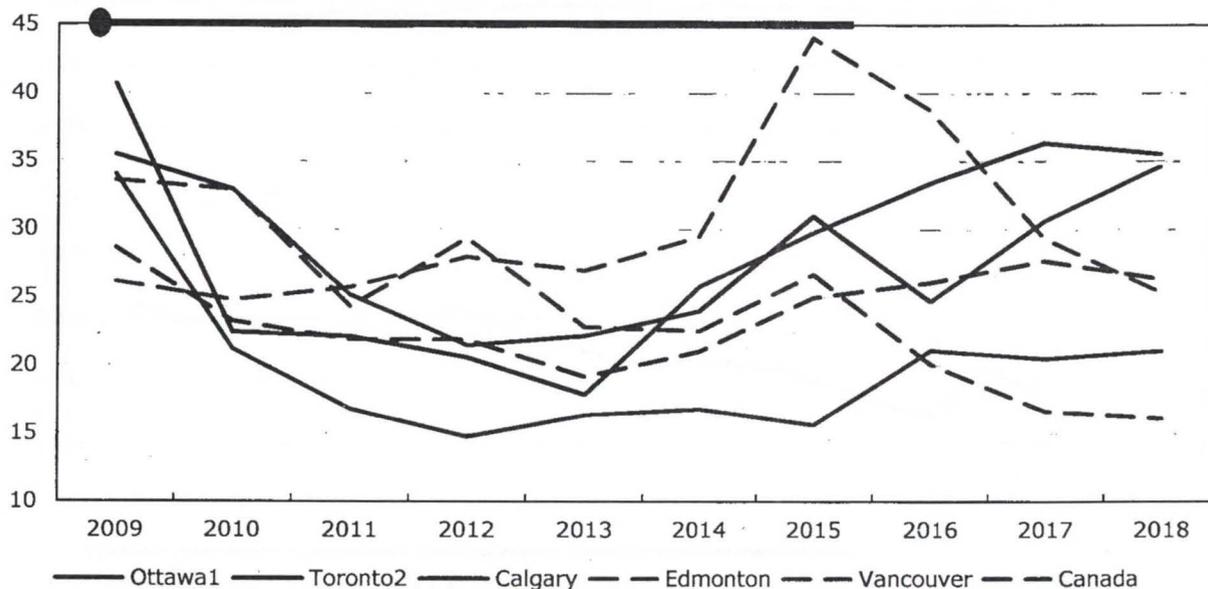
What we know:

- There were 579 suicides by firearm in Canada in 2017 – 14% of all suicide deaths
- There have been between 1.6 and 1.8 deaths by suicide by firearm per 100,000 population each year since 2004
- Since 2000, men have accounted for 96% of suicides by firearm, versus 72% of suicides by other means



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CANADA'S LARGEST CITIES?

rate per 100,000 population



1. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
 2. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

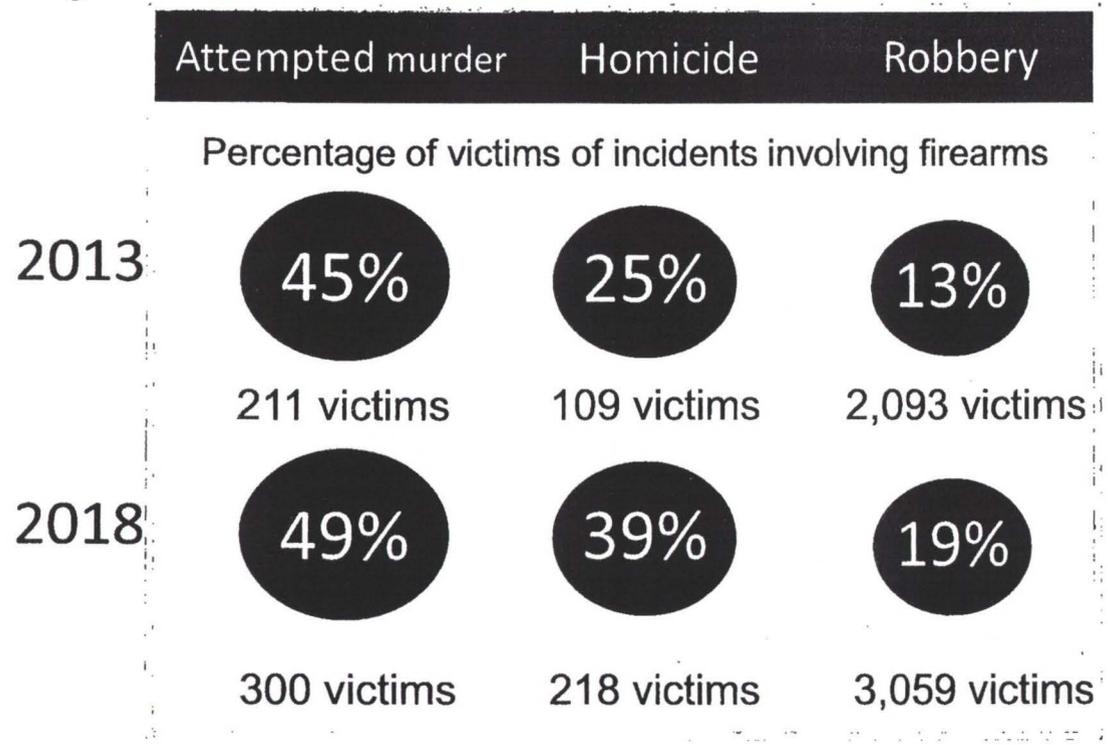
What we know?

- 45% of the national increase since 2013 is due to more victims in Toronto.
- Between 2013 and 2018, 16 of Canada's census metropolitan areas saw increases in their rate of firearm-related violent crime, including 3 of the 5 largest – Vancouver and Edmonton were the exceptions.

(Excludes Québec)

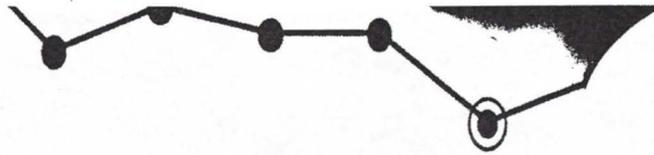
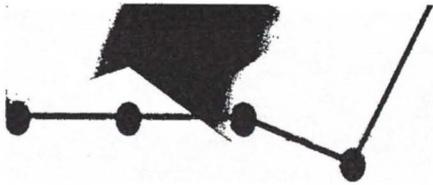


THE USE OF FIREARMS IN THE MOST SERIOUS VIOLENT CRIMES HAS INCREASED



What we know?

- Attempted murder and robbery both saw increases in the number of victims
- Excluding Quebec, the number of shooting homicide victims doubled from 2013 to 2018



THERE ARE STILL MANY UNKNOWNNS ABOUT GUN CRIME ...

What we *don't know*

- the origin of firearms involved in gun crime in Canada
- if firearm-related violent crimes are linked to organized crime (coverage issue)
- the ethnicity of both victims and persons accused of firearm-related violent crime
- the Indigenous identity of both victims and offenders in firearm-related violent crime, with the exception of homicides
- enough about marginalization and gun crime in Canada

s.21(1)(b)

Funding Request – Canadian Centre for Justice Studies (CCJS) Proposal: Feasibility Study on Collecting Additional Data on the Criminal Use of Firearms

In April 2019, the CCJS, in collaboration with PS Research Division, completed a feasibility study on the collection of additional data on the criminal use of firearms to address some of the identified gaps and PS priorities. The study explored the collection of data related to, but not limited to, the origin of firearms seized or recovered by police, firearm specific data including serial number (e.g., intact, obliterated, none), accessories (e.g., suppressors, ammunition, extended magazines), event characteristics (e.g. shooting, drive by shooting, etc.), firearm incident location, storage location, and straw purchasing etc.

The study put forward nine recommendations to advance work, five of which correspond directly to work that can be led by the CCJS to add new variables to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, as well as to establish national standard definitions in collaboration with stakeholders such as the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

The total cost of the proposed research by CCJS is approximately [REDACTED]

CCJS is seeking \$235K from Public Safety CSCCB for the current fiscal year (2019-20) and [REDACTED] for the next fiscal year (2020-2021), to deliver on the following objectives:

- Work with the policing community, the CACP and other experts and stakeholders to develop a national definition of shootings, and add a variable to the UCR to capture incidents where a firearm was charged, but did not cause injury to the victim (not currently possible to capture).
- Work with policing community, the CACP and other experts and stakeholders to develop a national definition of crime-gun.
- Add a variable to the UCR to count the number of firearms seized, recovered, or stolen as a part of a criminal incident.
- Add variables to the UCR to capture firearms characteristics.
- Add variable to the UCR to capture the origin of firearms seized, recovered or stolen.

For work to be completed in 2020-21, the CCJS is seeking [REDACTED] to implement the blue print for changes to the UCR created in 2019-20, to prepare for UCR data collection in January 2021.

For Years 1 and 2, the \$100K allocated for research in each year under the ITAAGGV will fund part of the work of the CCJS. The remaining costs [REDACTED] for the work can be risk-managed internally by CSCCB.

Addressing gaps has been identified as a priority through Public Safety initiatives including the Guns and Gang Summit 2018, Minister's Engagement Summary Report on Handguns and Assault Weapons as well as public statements made by Ministers Goodale and Blair.

CCJS proposal to Public Safety Canada to advance work to collect additional data on the criminal use of firearms

Background

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics is finalizing a feasibility study on collecting additional data on the criminal use of firearms, which was funded (\$70k) by Public Safety Canada's Community Safety and Countering Crime Branch Research Division. The feasibility study puts forward nine recommendations to advance work to collect more data about the criminal use of firearms. Five of these correspond directly to work that can be led by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to add new variables to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, and to establish national standard definitions in collaboration with stakeholders such as the including the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

Investment and Objectives

To advance this work the CCJS is seeking \$235k for the current fiscal year (2019-2020) and [REDACTED] for (2020-2021) in order to deliver on the following objectives:

1. With respect to shootings, work with the policing community, the CACP and other experts and stakeholders to develop a national definition of shootings, and add a variable to the UCR to capture incidents where a firearm was discharged, but did not cause injury to the victim (not currently possible to capture).
2. Work with the policing community, the CACP and other experts and stakeholders to develop a national definition of crime-gun.
3. Add a variable to the UCR to count the number of firearms either seized, recovered or stolen as part of a criminal incident.
4. Add variables to the UCR to capture firearm characteristics
5. Add a variable to the UCR to capture the origin of firearms seized, recovered, stolen.

Deliverables and Key Milestones

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Investment \$235K	Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Investment [REDACTED]	Calendar Year 2021	2022
Lead work, and in consultation with stakeholders including the CACP to develop standardized definitions of shooting and crime- gun	Implement the blue print for changes to the UCR created in 2019-20, to prepare for UCR data collection in January 2021, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming changes to all data collection, processing, dissemination programs and products. • Testing of programs and outputs • Updating all UCR documentation and user guides 	Begin data collection by police services of new variables through the UCR.	Data verification, analysis and release of data.
Conduct conceptual analytical work, consultations and communications for blue print for changes to the UCR survey to add variables listed in objectives			
Development of communications plan and communication with stakeholders			

Provide support and communication to advance other non CCJS- led recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and implementing communications plan for police and records management vendors. 		
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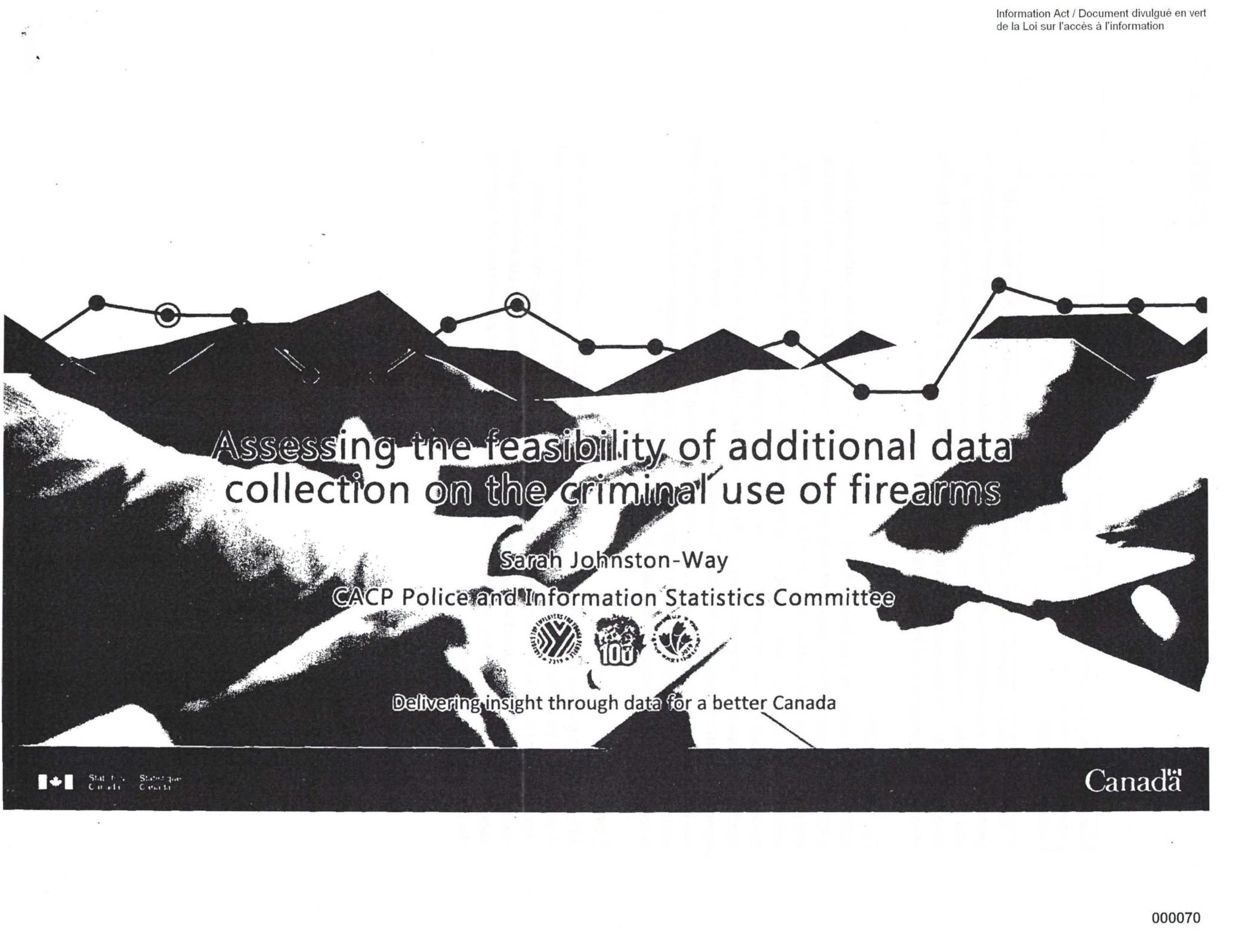
** Note investment proposed does not include updating training for police available through the Canadian Police Knowledge Network. There is an opportunity to provide a short course training for the new firearms related variables. In the past, Public Safety funded the development of a similar short course with respect to UCR scoring for cybercrime. If Public Safety wishes to pursue funding a training element, the development of an exact costing with CPKN will be needed.

Contingencies

With respect to collecting data from police through the UCR, the most significant contingency is that which requires cooperation support and agreement from police leaders in Canada to collect the data, and the associated time, financial investment in updated records management systems and training required for the implementation. Without significant cooperation support and agreement from police leaders, the risk is that data reported are of poor quality. To mitigate this risk, this proposal outlines significant engagement and communications planning with stakeholders, including the CACP committees, particularly its Special Purpose Firearms Committee, which has outlined data collection as one of their key pillars for examination and progress. Considering this existing interest from the policing community, and the ongoing demand for these data, the CCJS is optimistic that this risk can be successfully mitigated if the work begins as soon as possible in 2019/2020.

Conclusion

Addressing data gaps has been identified as an area of priority through Public Safety Canada initiatives including the Guns and Gang Summit, 2018, Minister's Engagement Summary Report on handguns and assault weapons in 2019, as well as public statements made by both Ministers Goodale and Blair. Investing in the work as outlined in this proposal would demonstrate progress toward addressing data gaps, thereby strengthening the capacity for evidence-based and informed decision making regarding the criminal use of firearms.



Assessing the feasibility of additional data collection on the criminal use of firearms

Sarah Johnston-Way

CACP Police and Information Statistics Committee



Delivering insight through data for a better Canada



Presentation Agenda

1

Objectives of the feasibility study

2

Who was consulted?

3

What was covered?

4

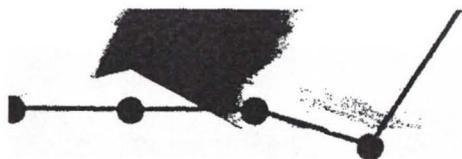
Priority Information Needs

5

DRAFT Recommendations to Strengthen Data Collection

6

Conclusion



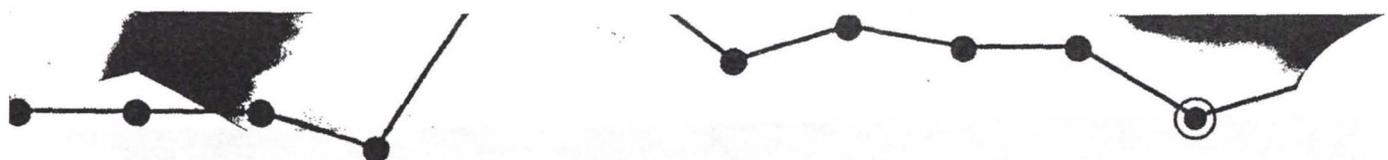
Objectives of the feasibility study:

- 1** [REDACTED] Identify possible data sources on firearms not yet exploited and leveraged by Statistics Canada;
- 2** [REDACTED] Identify potential opportunities and limitations of these data; and
- 3** [REDACTED] Recommend options for further data collection and analysis on firearms to contribute to building knowledge and the evidence base for decision-making about firearm policy, programming and enforcement.



WHO WAS CONSULTED?

Firearms Subject Matter Experts Consulted	
Stakeholder Type	Number of Participants
Police Services	33
Federal Government Depts. or Agencies	4
Academics	5
Advocacy/ Non-Governmental Organizations	8

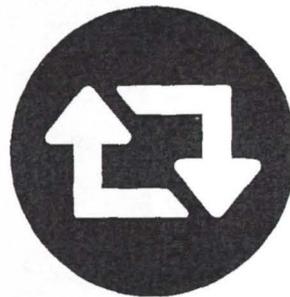


PRIORITY INFORMATION NEEDS – Summarized



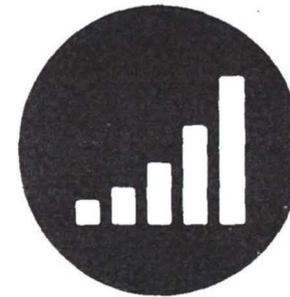
WHO

“WHO IS DOING THE SHOOTING?”



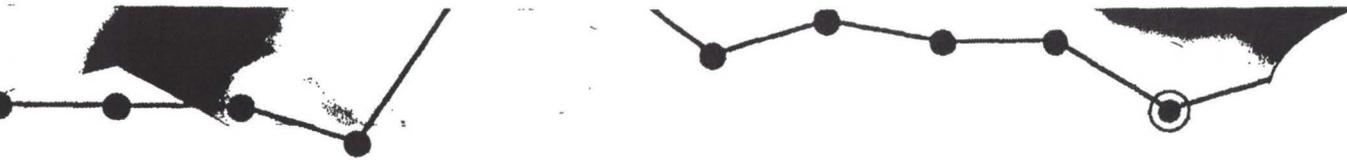
WHY?

WHAT IS THE MOTIVATION?



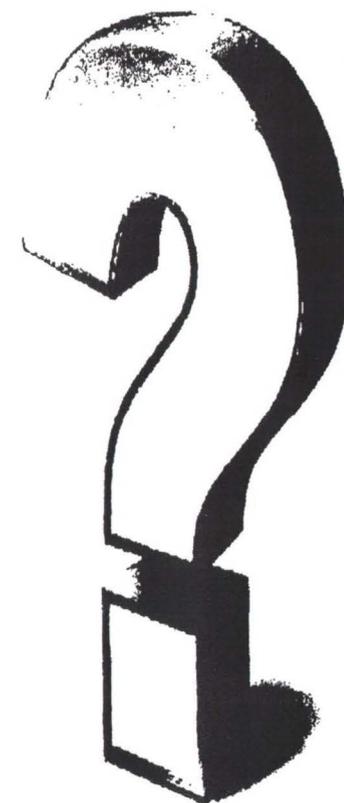
HOW?

HOW ARE THEY SOURCING THEIR FIREARMS?
WHAT FIREARMS ARE BEING USED?



PRIORITY INFORMATION NEEDS

- The origins of firearms
- More information about seizures
- The links between firearms offences, firearms smuggling and organized crime.
- Ethnicity of victims and offenders, and analyses at lower levels of disaggregation.
- Motivation for the use of a firearm in a criminal incident (e.g. intimate partner violence, gang related crime, etc.)
- The characteristics of firearms used in crime
- Firearms trafficking, and firearms seized in these offences, and links to organized crime.
- Firearms licensing status of accused in firearm related offences.



5

What was covered?- Consultation with Police Services

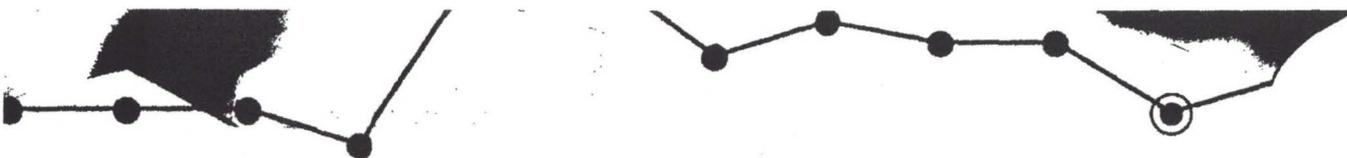
Identifying current firearms data availability and recording practices

Examining the definitions of 'shooting' and 'crime-gun' & gauging support for a secondary shooting variable

Ranking the priority of firearm information (characteristics, location, owner, licensing status, shootings, links to organized crime)

Hypothetical scenarios (to understand data recording practices)

- Considerable information already collected, however not all systematically. (Vendor changes would be required)
- Widespread support for secondary shooting variable- definitional standardization required
- Origin of firearms and links to organized crime of particular relevance

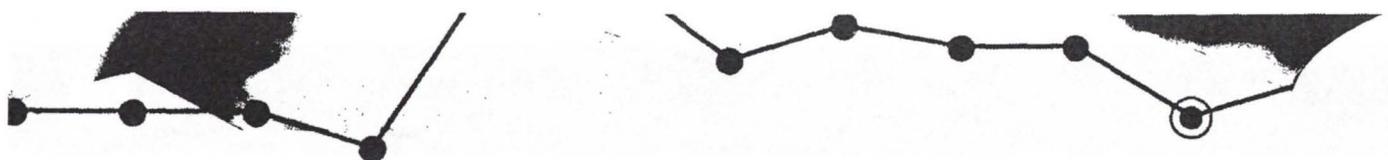


Draft Recommendation 1 – Seized or Recovered Firearms

That UCR be updated to capture whether firearm(s) have been seized or recovered in a criminal incident.

Rationale:

- A field in the UCR to count the firearms seized in an incident would allow for an analysis of other incident variables alongside firearm seizures, including the victim and offender relationship, location, and other offences involved in the incident, including potentially other drug and weapon offences.
- This would provide many additional layers of analysis on firearms seized, which could contribute to a greater understanding of the criminal use of firearms in Canada.



Draft Recommendation 2: Firearm Characteristics

That the UCR be updated to include some firearm characteristics fields for violent firearm related offences.

Characteristics for Consideration:

- Action
- Calibre
- Serial Number (intact or obliterated)
- Classification
- Storage Location
- Owner (CSC, Victim, Other, Unknown)
- Licensing status
- Status of Illegally Owned Firearm



Draft Recommendation 3: Shootings

That the CACP POLIS Committee develop a standardized definition of ‘shooting or discharge of firearm’, with a view of working toward including a variable in the UCR to capture shootings.

Rationale:

- Support for a shooting variable in the UCR to capture incidents where a firearm was discharged, but did not cause injury, communicated through the consultation.
- Inconsistent definition of shooting presents a barrier to data collection.

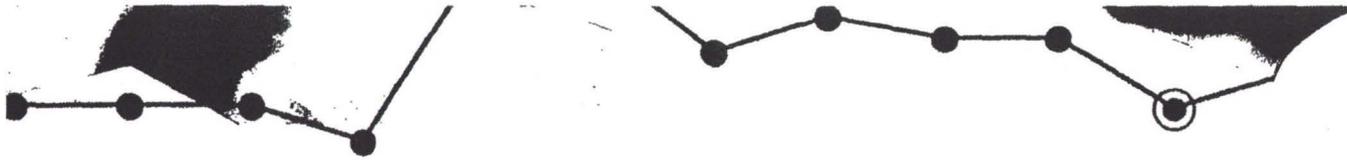


Draft Recommendation 4: Defining a 'crime-gun'

That POLIS develop a standardized definition of crime-gun, and review the current definition of a firearm related offense against this standardized definition to ensure consistency.

Rationale:

- Inconsistent definition among police services as an obstacle to accurate data collection nationally



Draft Recommendations 5 & 6: Origin of Firearms

- **That federal and/ or provincial territorial governments consider amending firearm legislation or regulations to require that all police services be required to submit crime- guns for tracing to ensure that the required policy framework exists for national data collection.**

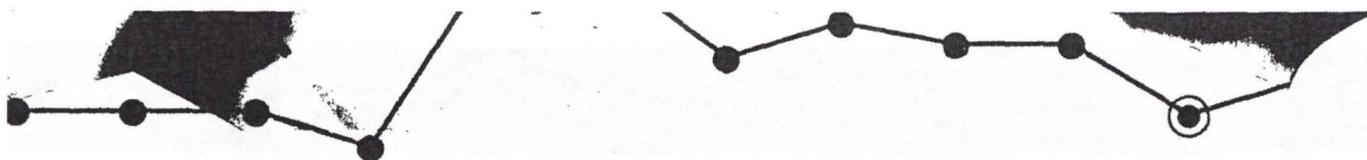
&

- **That UCR be updated to included a field on the origin of firearms seized or recovered in violent criminal incidents.**

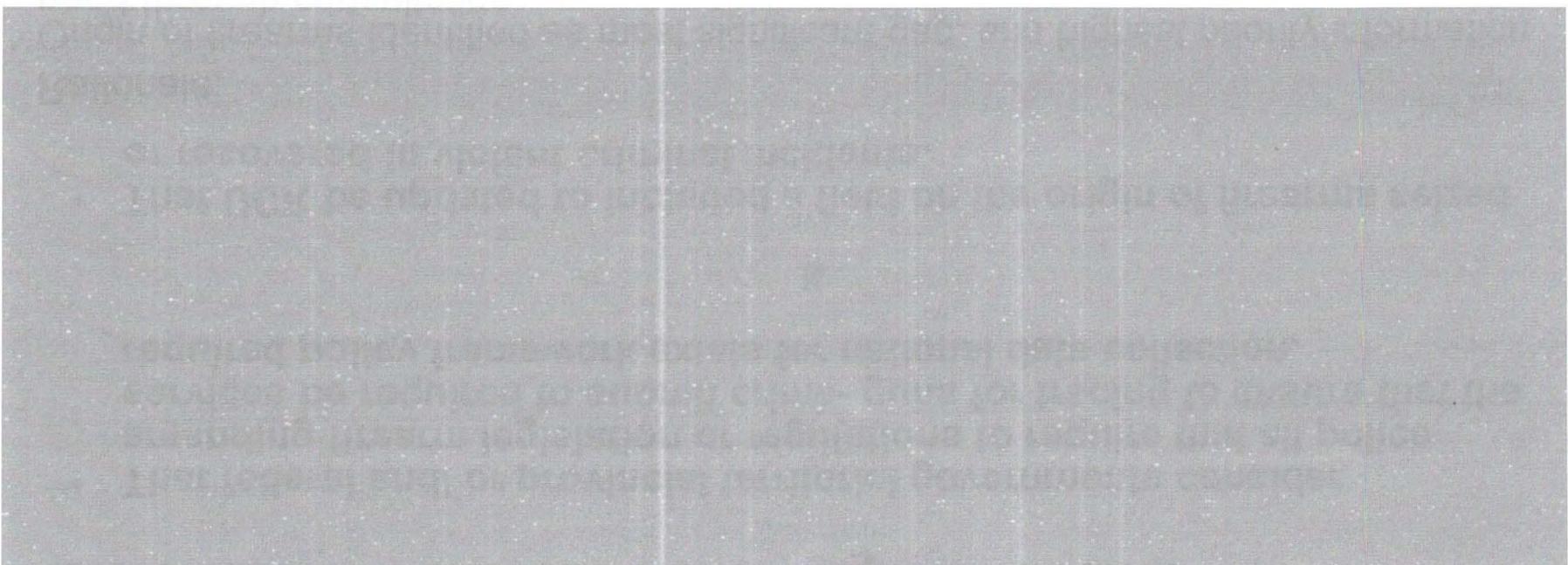
Rationale:

Origin of firearms identified as most significant gap, and highest priority information need through consultation.

The current policy framework around tracing is a barrier to producing nationally comparable data on the origin of firearms used in crime.

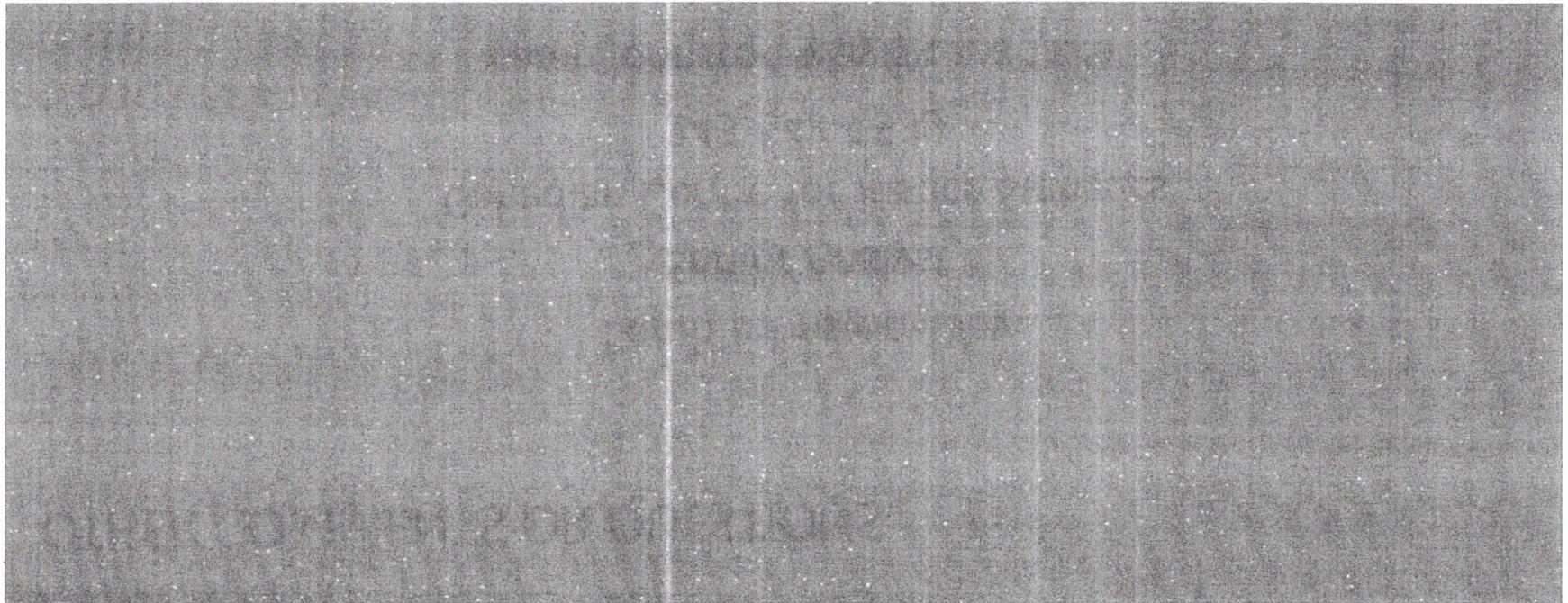


Draft Recommendation 7:





Draft Recommendation 8:





OTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS:

Sarah Johnston-Way
Senior Analyst
Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics
343-548-2539
sarah.johnston-way@canada.ca

Firearms Feasibility Study – Consultation with Stakeholders 2018-2019

Consultation Document – responses due January 18, 2019

Assessing the feasibility of collecting additional firearms data

*Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada
December 2018*

Firearms Feasibility Study – Consultation with Stakeholders 2018-2019

BACKGROUND

Recent shootings in Canada, particularly through the course of 2018, have garnered significant public, media and political attention. Careful consideration of the issues has identified some gaps in knowledge and understanding of the full breadth of issues related to the use of firearms in violent offences Canada. While there is currently significant information collected about firearms, there is presently a lack of available national-level information related to the origins of firearms, specific information about violent incidents involving firearms, and the characteristics of the firearms associated with them.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

In collaboration with Public Safety Canada, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) at Statistics Canada will examine the feasibility of collecting additional data on firearms in Canada. The results of the feasibility study aim to provide a blueprint for potential new data collection on the origins of firearms used in crime, their characteristics, as well as the frequency and characteristics of shootings.

The feasibility study has three primary objectives:

1. To identify data sources on firearms to inform current data gaps;
2. To identify and recommend options for further data collection and analysis on firearms to contribute to building knowledge and the evidence base for decision-making about firearm policy, programming and enforcement, and;
3. To identify possible opportunities and limitations of these data.

In order to gain insight, CCJS is seeking to consult with key stakeholders in a number of areas relevant to firearms, including academics, and organizations involved in public safety, border security, advocacy, regulation and enforcement. The consultation aims to identify information gaps and needs, potential data sources and approaches for filling these gaps.

Firearms Feasibility Study – Consultation with Stakeholders 2018-2019

IDENTIFICATION OF CONSULTATION PARTICIPANT

The following information will help CCJS compile and analyze the results of the consultation.

Please note that all responses will remain confidential. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the consultation document, please contact Sarah Johnston-Way, Senior Analyst, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics at sarah.johnston-way@canada.ca or 343-548-2539.

Please send your response to Sarah Johnston-Way by January 18, 2019.

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Province or Territory:

E-mail:

Phone number:

Fax number:

Date:

This document is written in a general manner to gather feedback from a variety of stakeholders and experts in a broad array of firearm-related areas, including academics, advocacy organizations, border security, firearm regulation and public safety. Please respond to questions that correspond to your experience and/or area of expertise (not all questions require responses).

Firearms Feasibility Study – Consultation with Stakeholders 2018-2019

Section A: Objectives of Data Collection

The collection of more detailed firearms information on a national-level could serve a number of important objectives, including:

- Assisting policy makers to make informed, evidence-based decisions regarding firearms, including program development, regulation and enforcement
- Improve public awareness and understanding related to the criminal use of firearms in Canada
- Assist in measuring progress and/or performance of policies and programs
- Work toward consistent data recording practices

A1. Are there other objectives for data collection that have not been mentioned?

A2. Among the objectives listed above and any others that have been suggested, could you identify in order, the **two most important** objectives?

Firearms Feasibility Study – Consultation with Stakeholders 2018-2019

Section B: Information Needs and Priorities

To make recommendations on the types of data that should be collected related to firearms, it is crucial to understand current gaps and associated information needs.

B1. From you or your organization's perspective, what are the priority issues with respect to firearms in Canada?

B2. What statistical information is needed to inform these issues?

B3. Do you know if these data exist? If yes, where?

Firearms Feasibility Study – Consultation with Stakeholders 2018-2019

C3. Are there any plans within your organization to collect any additional information? If so, what will be collected and how? Please indicate if these plans are tentative or formalized.

Firearms Feasibility Study – Consultation with Stakeholders 2018-2019

Section C: Data Availability

C1. Do you or does your organization currently collect or has it ever collected any data regarding firearms? Collection means systematic, ongoing tracking of information, or a one-time study.

C2. If yes, can you describe the following about the data?

- Type of information collected (key variables)
- Purpose of data collection
- Method of collection
- Reference period
- Retention period for data collected
- Are any findings resulting from analysis of these data available in a report? If so, can the report be shared?

Firearms Feasibility Study – Consultation with Stakeholders 2018-2019

Section D: Other

D1. Is there anything that has not been covered in this consultation that you want to comment on with respect to collecting data on firearms in Canada?

Section E: Additional Consultation Participants

E1. An attempt has been made to include key stakeholders within the timeframe of this consultation process. Can you suggest an expert, or any organization, that you feel should be included?

Firearms Feasibility Study – Consultation with Stakeholders 2018-2019

Section F: Next Steps and Follow-up

The information obtained through this consultation will be used to assess the feasibility of collecting additional data about firearms and their origins. A report will be drafted which will include the summarized results of this consultation, as well as recommendations for moving forward. Findings will be shared with all stakeholders who participated in the consultation, and all responses will be kept anonymous.

Comment [SJC1]: Data?

Thank you for your time and consideration in providing responses to this consultation. Your input is critical in moving forward on the task of collecting quality information on firearms. Your participation in this process will serve to foster the ongoing dialogue surrounding this important issue, and will aid in determining whether additional quality data that are both meaningful and useful can be collected.

Please provide your response to Sarah Johnston-Way, Senior Analyst, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, at sarah.johnston-way@canada.ca by **January 18, 2019**.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

Access to Information Request Form

For official use only:

My File: 253

Federal Government Institution:

PUBLIC SAFETY CANADA

Details regarding the information being sought:

FACTSCAN: BILL BLAIR: ON CRIME GUNS

By Nojan Kamoosi on October 13, 2018 <http://factscan.ca/bill-blair-crime-guns/>

Bill Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction and MP for Scarborough Southwest, on CBC's The House on July 28, 2018 <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1287252547509/>: "While the data on this topic is limited and somewhat flawed, experts agree that historically, most crime guns in Canada have arrived unlawfully from the US. Some new reports contradict this view and imply that a higher rate of crime guns are domestically sourced, however, these reports show that domestic crime guns have been illegally diverted (**straw purchases**), as opposed to being legally owned by the perpetrators." FactsCan Score: True

DEFINITION: "Strawman" or Straw purchase"- *Currently refers to firearms purchase by someone legally able to buy, who deliberately diverts guns to people who are unable to legally purchase guns.*

BACKGROUND: The Canadian Firearms Centre, Federal and Provincial Chief Firearms Officers (CFO's) will revoke a firearms license for a 'straw purchase' the legal term is 'Unauthorized Transfer': Criminal Code section 99 weapons trafficking, section 100 possession for the purpose of weapons trafficking and section 101, transfers without authority.

For the period from October 13, 2018 to present please provide copies of records (records as defined broadly under the Act) with the evidence-based research, reports, studies, statistics, spreadsheets, expert analysis, etc amassed by the department and the Minister's office to inform the Minister's statement:

- (1) that 'data on the topic is limited and somewhat flawed'**
- (2) that 'that a higher rate of crime guns are domestically sourced' and**
- (3) that 'domestic crime guns have been illegally diverted (straw purchases)' and supported by**
- (4) the actual number of firearms licenses revoked for the reasons of unauthorized transfer of a non-restricted, restricted or prohibited firearm to an unlicensed individual.**

Method of access preferred: Receive copies of originals Examine originals in government offices

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This request for access to information under the Access to Information Act is being made by:

- a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or another individual present in Canada, or
 a corporation present in Canada

Cheque # 734

Signature: _____
[Original signed by]
Dennis R. Young

Date: August 24, 2019