

Call for Records - PSS-2023-32496 - BC Gang Conflict Homicides - Due October 5

Request Wording:

All statistics pertaining to shootings and homicides that are being investigated, have been investigated or may be investigated for connections to the B.C. Gang Conflict in British Columbia. Please include the annual statistics for each year specified in the date range, and any documents that show an annual breakdown by region. (Date Range for Record Search: From 9/1/2016 To 9/12/2023)

PSB data and associated briefing materials relevant to the request for that time period are all related to data released publicly by Statistics Canada. Data on homicides and shootings in general are released annually through the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (see, for example, the 2022 article and associated tables here: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/230727/dq230727b-eng.htm>). That information does not typically mention links to organized crime, but other products do.

Gang-affiliation is typically reported in products associated with the annual Homicide Survey (<https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3315>). Data most relevant to the request have been copied from Table 35-10-0075-01 (formerly CANSIM 253-0008) to the **next page**, detailing the number, percentage and rate of gang-related homicide victims.

Trends in homicides – including those related to known or suspected gang-affiliation – are also occasionally summarized in narrative form by Statistics Canada through Juristat releases (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/catalogue/85-002-X#wb-auto-2>). There have been five publications related to homicide. They have a national focus, but also speak to regional trends. There are no listed publications for 2019, 2022, or 2023 at this time.

1. Homicide in Canada, 2016 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/54879-eng.htm>
2. Homicide in Canada, 2017 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54980-eng.htm>
3. Homicide in Canada, 2018 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2019001/article/00016-eng.htm>
4. Homicide in Canada, 2020 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2021001/article/00017-eng.htm>
5. Homicide in Canada, 2021 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00015-eng.htm>

Number, percentage and rate of gang-related homicide victims 1 2 3 4							
Frequency: Annual							
Table: 35-10-0075-01 (formerly CANSIM 253-0008)							
Release date: 2023-07-27							
Geography	British Columbia						
Homicides	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Number						
Total number of homicide victims	90	120	93	90	100	125	155
Number of homicide victims for which the status of the link between the homicide and organized crime or a street gang was reported as unknown 5	2
Number of homicide victims for which the status of the link between the homicide and organized crime or a street gang was known 6	88	120	93	90	100	125	155
Number of homicide victims where the homicide was linked or suspected to be linked to organized crime or a street gang 7	29	45	34	24	26	39	53
	Percent						
Victims of homicides linked to organized crime or a street gang as a percentage of homicides for which the link between the homicide and organized crime or a street gang was known 7 8	32.95	37.50	36.56	26.67	26.00	31.20	34.19
	Rate						
Rate of homicides (number of victims per 100,000 population) where the homicide was linked or suspected to be linked to organized crime or a street gang 7 9	0.60	0.91	0.68	0.47	0.50	0.75	1.00

Symbol legend:

.. not available for a specific reference period

Footnotes:

- 1 Source: Statistics Canada, Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics.
- 2 Homicide includes Criminal Code offences of murder, manslaughter and infanticide.
- 3 A homicide is classified as linked to organized crime or a street gang when police confirm or suspect that the accused person and/or the victim was either a member, or a prospective member, of an organized crime group or street gang, or if either individual was somehow associated with an organized crime group or a street gang, and the homicide was carried out as a result of this association. Prior to 2005, police were asked if the homicide was gang-related". As of 2005
- 4 The total count of a given year's number of homicides could include incidents that occurred in previous years. Homicides are allotted to the year in which they become known to or are deemed homicides by police, according to the report date submitted to Statistics Canada.
- 5 "Unknown" was reported for the relation to organized crime or a street gang.
- 6 Either "Yes", "No" or "Suspected" was reported for the relation to organized crime or a street gang.
- 7 The homicide was deemed as being linked to organized crime or a street gang when either "Yes" or "Suspected" was reported for the relation to organized crime or a street gang.
- 8 The total number of homicides used to calculate the percentage excludes homicides for which the relation to organized crime or a street gang was reported as Unknown". Either "Yes", "No" or "Suspected" had to have been reported for the relation to organized crime or a street gang in order for the homicide to be considered in the total number of victims.
- 9 Population counts are based on July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

There is also a Juristat article on “Trends in firearm-related violent crime in Canada, 2009 to 2020” (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00009-eng.htm>) that speaks to the intersection of firearms and gangs beyond the specific outcome of homicide (though the information is limited to national trends):

- *Almost three-quarters (72% or 107 homicides) of the 148 gang-related homicides reported in 2020 were committed with a firearm, the lowest proportion since 2013. Put differently, gang activity was confirmed or suspected in 39% of all firearm-related homicides. Overall, gang-related homicides committed with a firearm represented 14% of all homicides in 2020, compared to 20% the year before and 19% in 2018.*
- *Most (63%) gang firearm-related homicides in 2020 were committed with a handgun. In both periods examined in this report, a handgun was the most common firearm used in gang-related firearm-related homicides, but they were proportionally fewer after 2015 (76% of gang-related homicides between 2009 and 2014 and 67% between 2015 and 2020). Instead, rifles or shotguns (9% between 2009 and 2014 compared to 14% in the later period) or an unknown type of firearm (from 14% to 19% in the later period) became more common in gang-related homicides committed with a firearm.*
- *In 2020, where this information was reported, 6% of firearm-related violent crimes were identified by police as confirmed or suspected to be committed by, and for the benefit of, a criminal organization or street gang. In these incidents, most (75%) of the victims involved were male.*
- *Homicide, other violations causing death, and attempted murder (combined) accounted for over one quarter (27%) of firearm-related crimes that were identified as confirmed or suspected to have been committed for the benefit of organized crime or gang activity. Robbery (22%) and discharging a firearm with intent (21%) were the next most frequent offences. For information specific to gang-related homicides, see “Firearm-related homicides”.*
- *Less than half (47%) of these crimes were cleared by police, with an accused identified. Firearm-related organized or gang-related crimes were least likely to be solved for discharging a firearm with intent (43%), homicide, other violations causing death, or attempted murder (34% combined) and uttering threats (30%).*
- *In 2020, 343 individuals, or 6% of those accused in firearm-related crimes, were accused in incidents that police confirmed or suspected to be committed by, and for the benefit of a criminal organization or street gang. As with firearm-related crime generally, most (85%) of these accused were male, 45% of which were aged 12 to 24. Most (92%) of these individuals were charged.*