



Statistics  
Canada

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# Guns and Gangs

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CANADA 150

Telling Canada's  
story in numbers

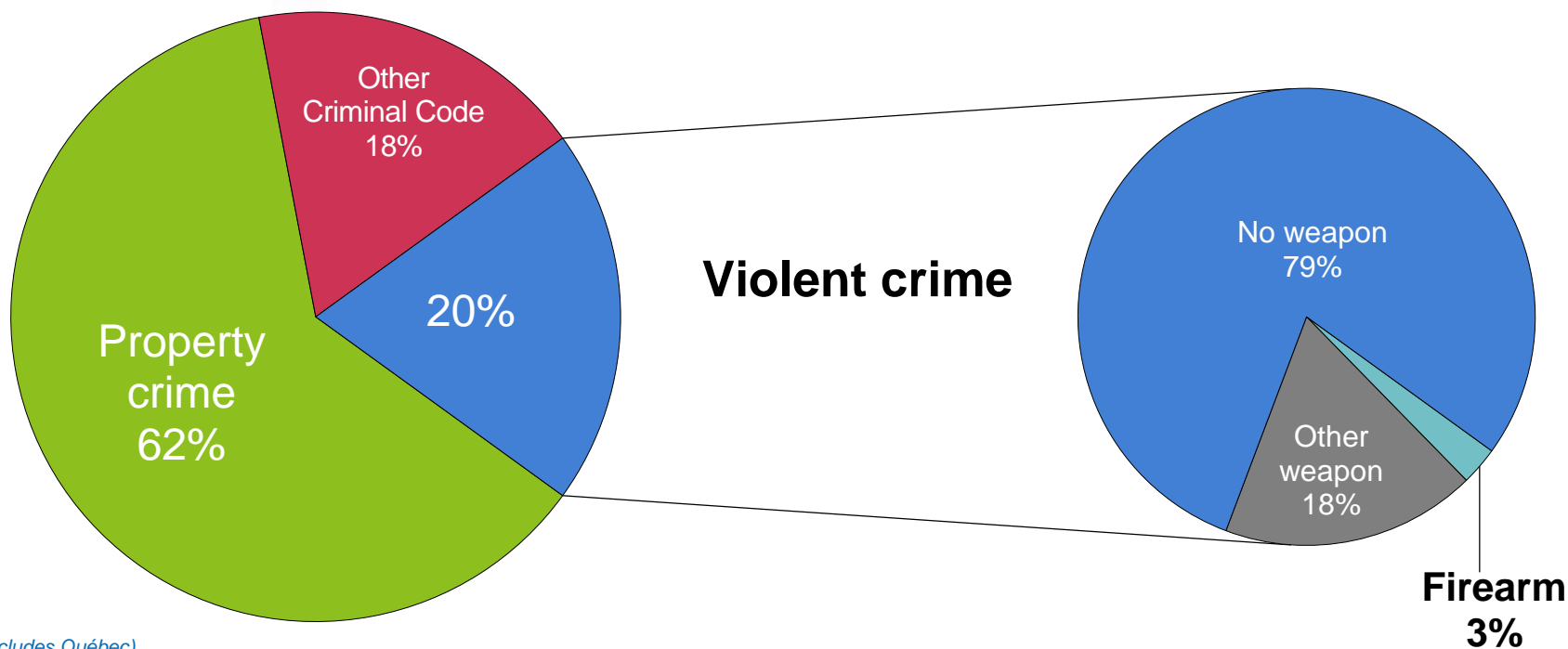
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**Director General,**  
**Health, Justice and Special Surveys**

Summit on Gun and Gang Violence  
March 7, 2018

Canada 



# Gun crime is less than one half of one percent of overall police-reported crime in Canada



*In 2016, a small proportion of police-reported violent crime involved firearms – 3%. However, these incidents involved more than 7,000 victims.*

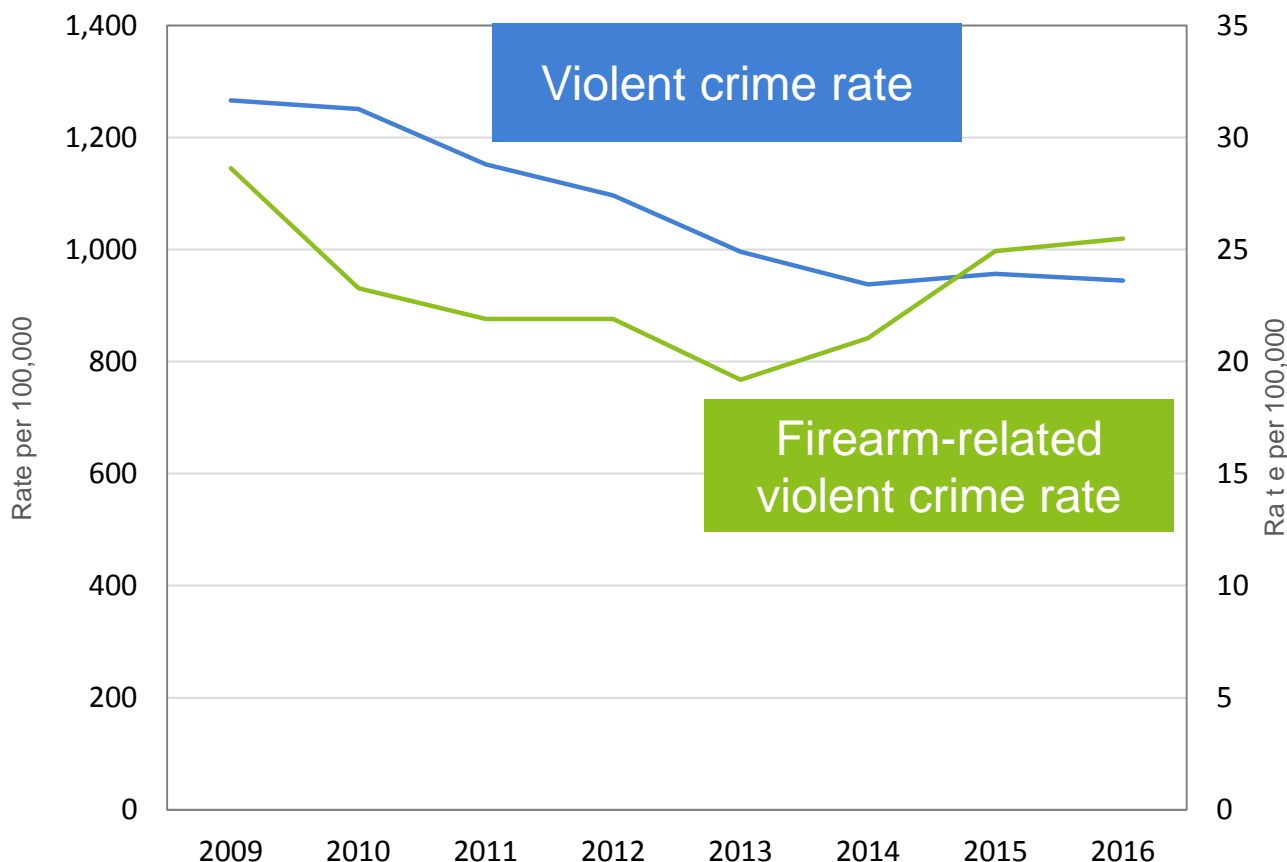


# Police-reported crime involving firearms has increased each year since 2013

## What we know?

### Since 2013:

- Overall police-reported crime rate up 1%
- Violent crime rate down 4%
- There were 33% more victims of firearm related crime in 2016 than 3 years prior

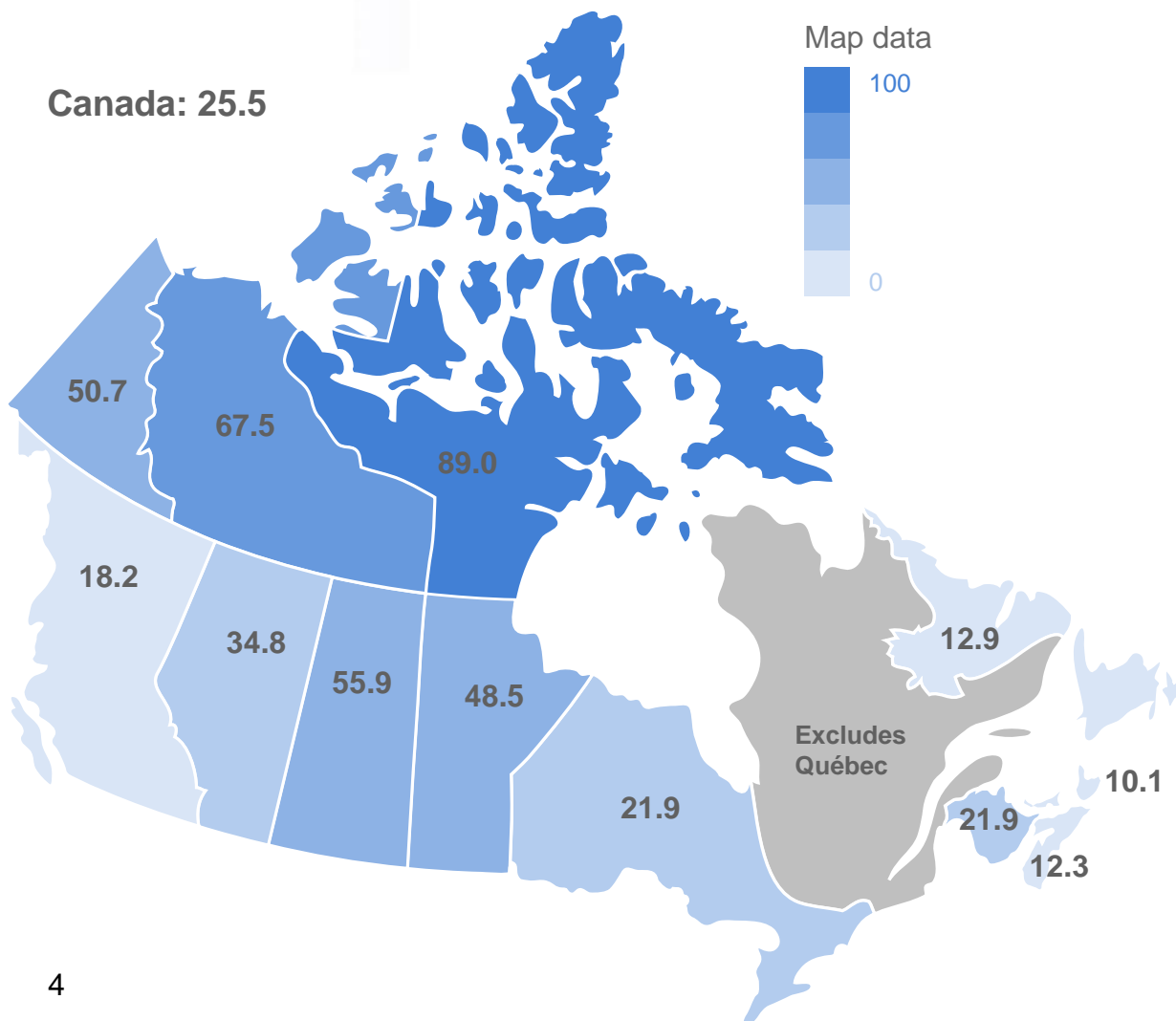


(Excludes Québec)



# Territories and Saskatchewan have highest rates of firearm-related violent crime, 2016

Canada: 25.5



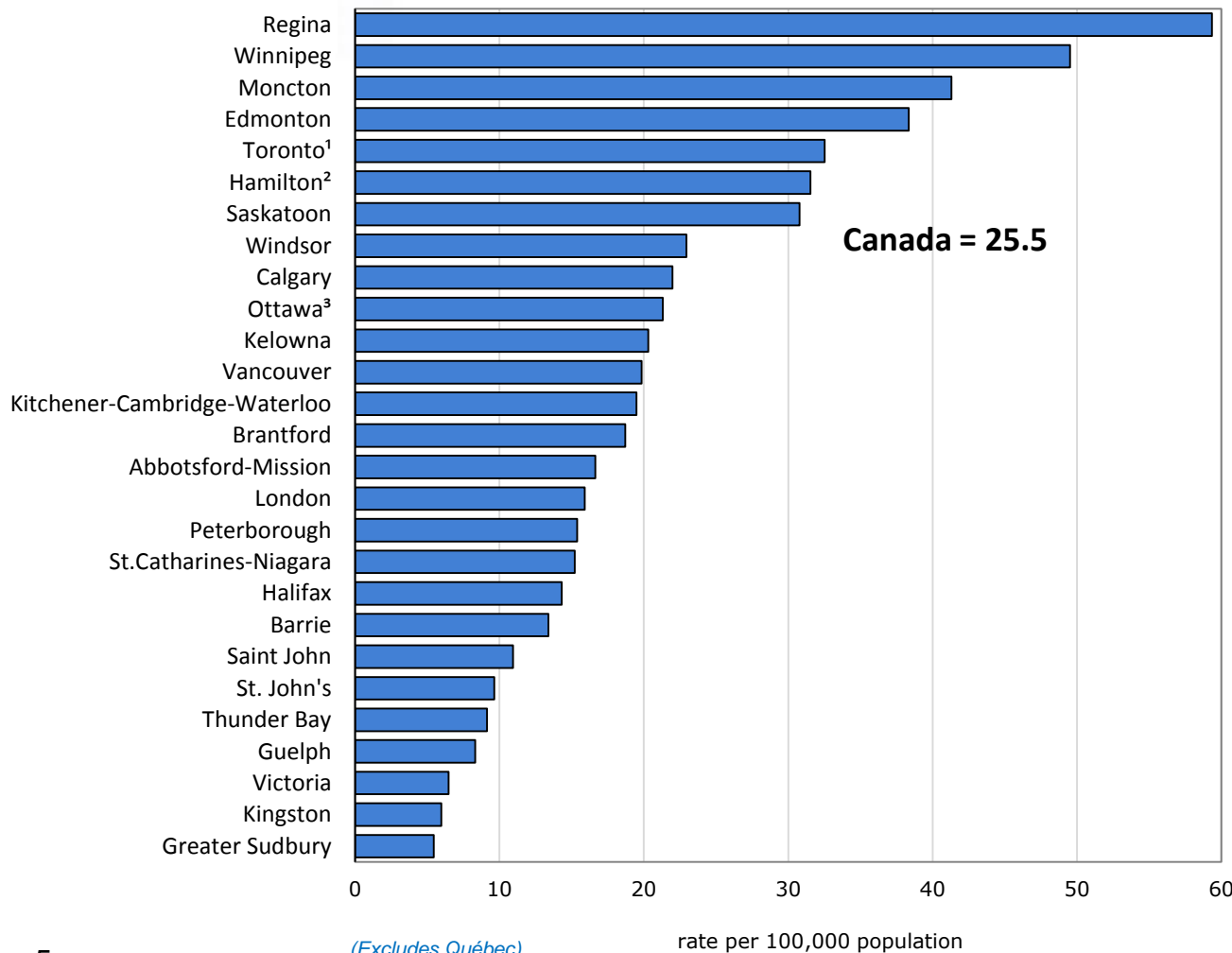
## What we know?

- Increases in firearm related violent crime since 2013 in Saskatchewan (+83%), Manitoba (+48%), Ontario (+46%), New Brunswick (+45%), Alberta (+30%)
- Decreases in firearm related violent crime since 2013 in Nova Scotia (-37%), Nunavut (-15%), British Columbia (-7%)



# Gun crime tends to be concentrated within larger cities (7 out of 10 victims), 2016

## What we know?

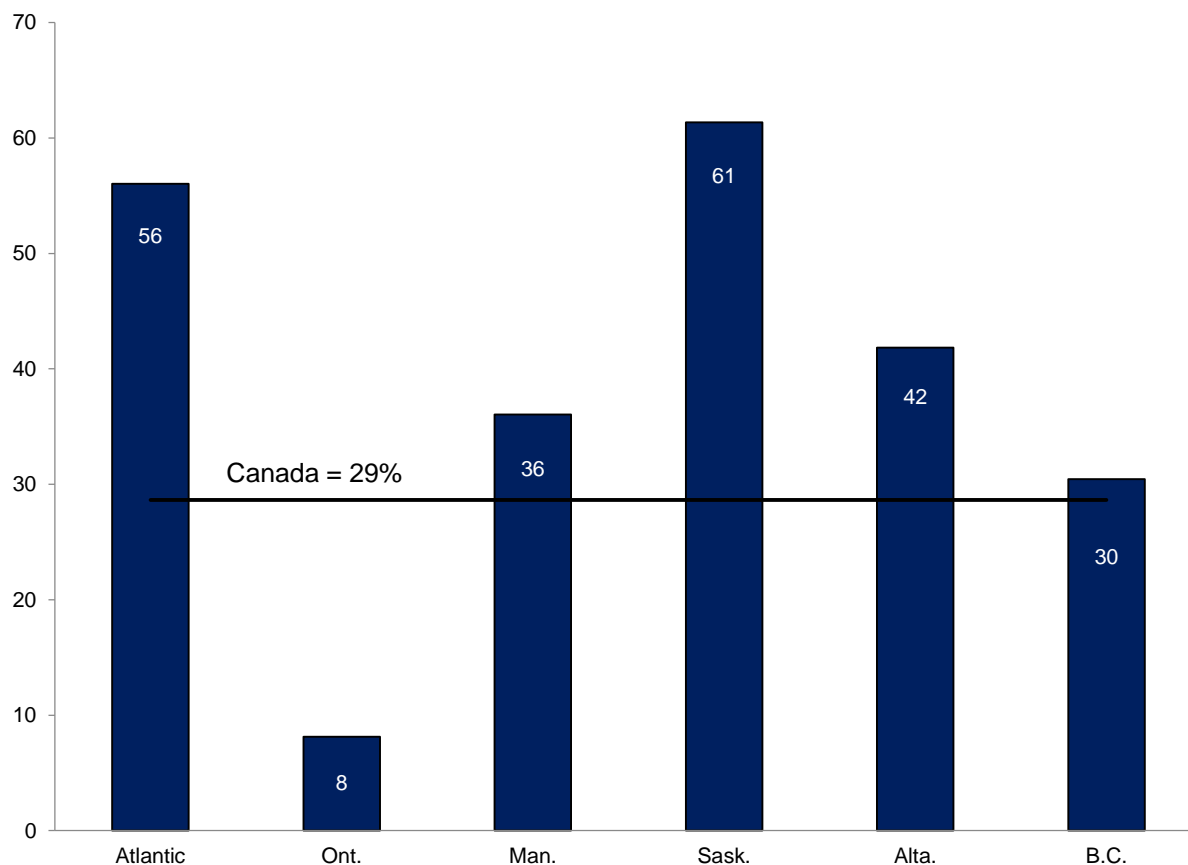


- Regina and Winnipeg have highest rates of firearm related violent crime among cities (CMAs) followed by Moncton, Edmonton and Toronto
- In Canada overall, 3 out of 10 violent gun crimes happen outside of a major city
- In Toronto alone, there were over 1,800 victims of gun crime in 2016 – 33 victims for every 100,000 people living there



# However, in Saskatchewan 6 in 10 violent gun crimes happen outside of a major city

Percent of firearm-related violent crime occurring outside of a major city, 2016



(Excludes Québec)

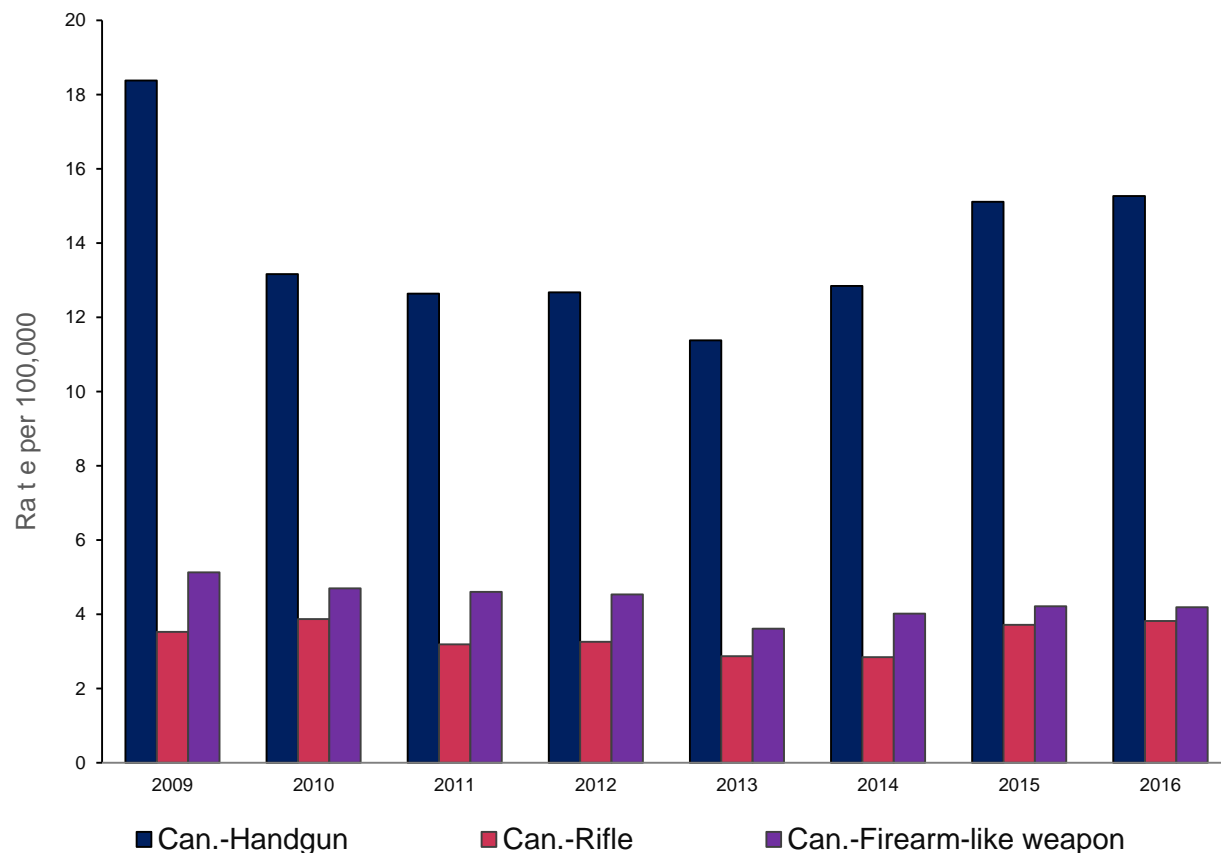
## What we know?

- The proportion of firearm-related violent crime that occurs outside of a major city (CMA) in Saskatchewan is higher than any other region or province; only the Atlantic Provinces are close (56%)
- The rate of firearm violence in Saskatchewan's non-CMA areas has consistently been higher than the rates in Regina and Saskatoon



# Outside of Saskatchewan, most gun crime in Canada involves handguns

Firearm-related violent crime, by type of firearm

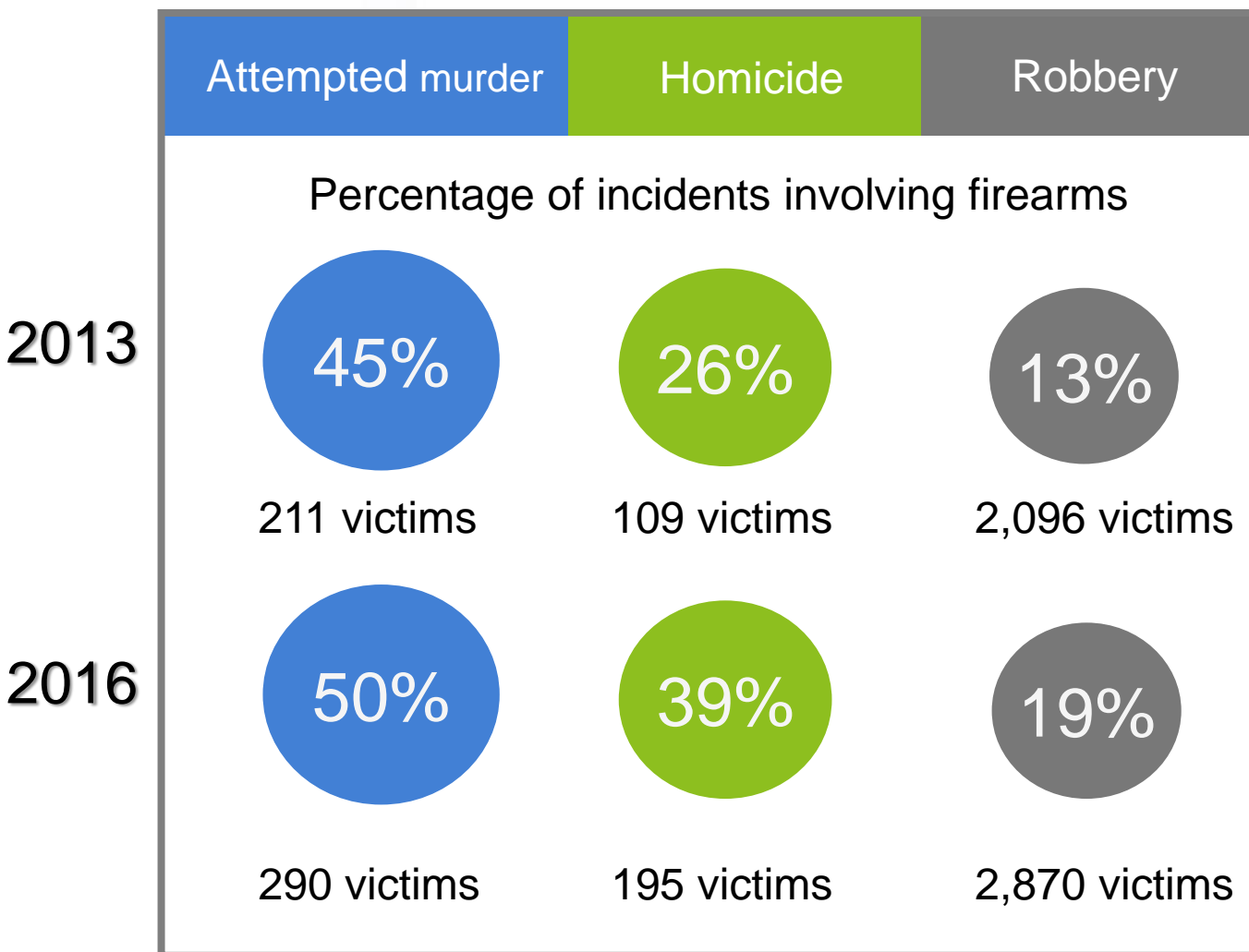


(Excludes Québec)

## What we know?

- 60% of gun crime in Canada involved a handgun in 2016
- Violent crime involving a rifle is about 5 times higher in Saskatchewan than in the rest of Canada
- There were 19 victims of violent crime involving a rifle for every 100,000 residents of Saskatchewan, well above the rate of 4 per 100,000 in Canada
- Though the rate of crime involving rifles remains higher, the rate of violent crime involving handguns in Saskatchewan has more than doubled since 2013

# 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 almost doubled from 2013 to 2016





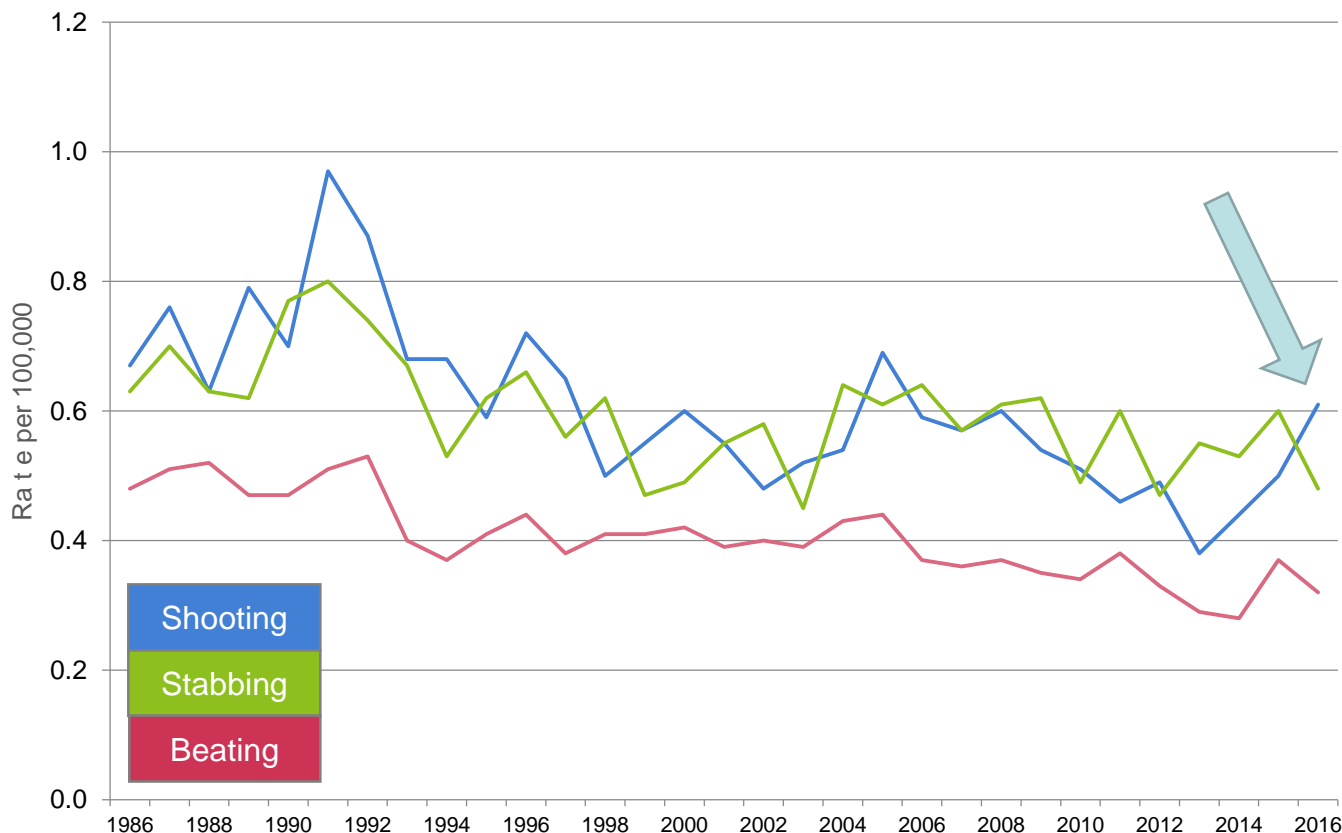
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# In 2016, shootings were the most common homicide method followed by stabbings

Homicides, by most common method, Canada, 1986 to 2016



## What we know?

- Over the past 25 years, shootings and stabbings have been the two main methods used to commit homicide
- The rate of homicide by shooting in 2016 was 21% higher than the average for the previous decade
- In 2016, there were more shootings than stabbings for the first time since 2012

# Gang homicides on the rise

- The recent increase in homicides (up 20% since 2013) is related to more gun homicides and more gang homicides.
- Since 2013, gang-related homicides in our largest cities have almost doubled (from 65 to 121), with significant increases in Toronto (13 to 33), Edmonton (3 to 11), and Ottawa (0 to 7) ...regardless of method used.

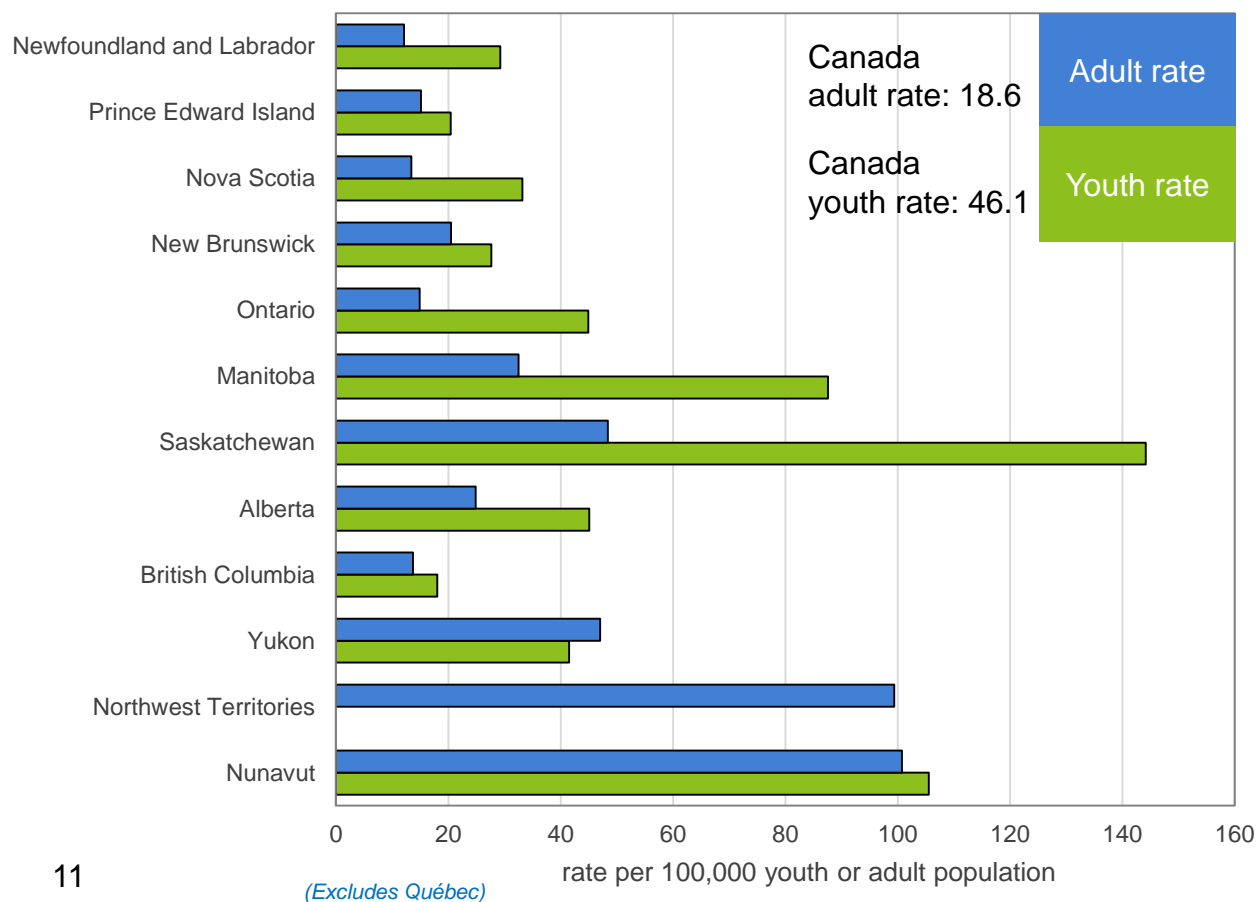
## The majority of gang-related homicides involve guns

- In 2016, just over one in three (34%) guns used to commit homicide were recovered. Only a small proportion of these were registered firearms. About one-third (32%) were not registered because they are prohibited by law and of the guns that could be registered, only one quarter actually were.



# Across the provinces, youth charged with firearm-related violent crime at a higher rate than adults

Youth and adults accused of firearm-related violent crime, provinces and territories, 2016



## What do we know?

- The rate of youth accused of a firearm-related violent crime was 20% higher in 2016 than it was in 2013
- In Saskatchewan the rate of youth accused of firearm related crime is triple the national average; in Manitoba it is double
- The rate of adults accused of firearm-related violent crime increased 37% from 2013 (14 per 100,000) to 2016 (19 per 100,000)
- In absolute numbers, more adults are accused than youth



# Gun crimes typically committed by strangers

Proportion of selected offences involving a firearm,  
by victim-accused relationship, 2016



64%

of attempted  
murders



25%

of homicides



20%

of robberies

(Excludes Québec)

## What do we know?

- In 6% of crimes committed by a stranger, a gun was involved, compared to 1.5% of crimes where the victim knew the offender
- Attempted murder, homicide, and robbery are all more likely to involve guns when they're committed by a stranger

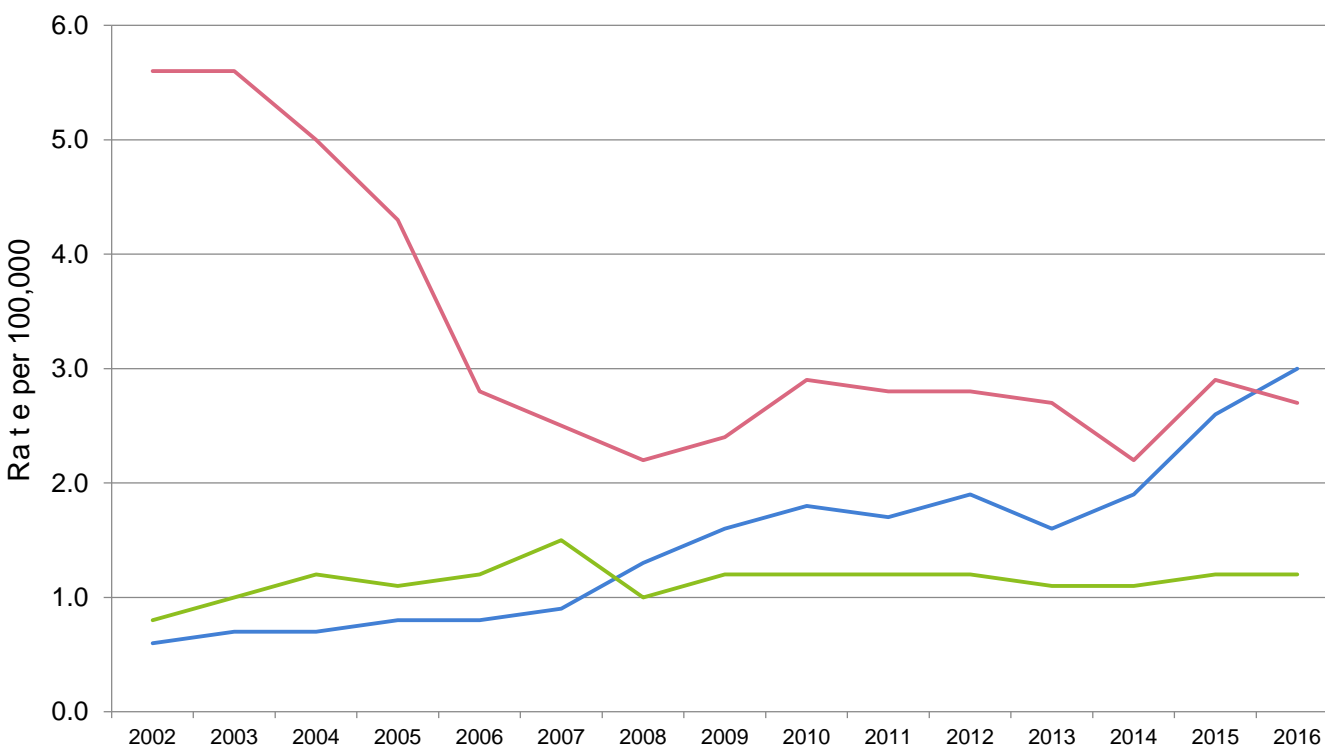
...involved guns when committed by a stranger



# Recent increase in firearms offences driven by more incidents of discharging with intent

## What do we know?

Firearms offences, Canada, 2002 to 2016



- In 2016, unlike previous years, there were more incidents of discharging a firearm with intent than pointing a firearm
- The rate of firearms offences increased 26% from 2013 to 2016 – the rate of discharging a firearm with intent almost doubled (+88%)

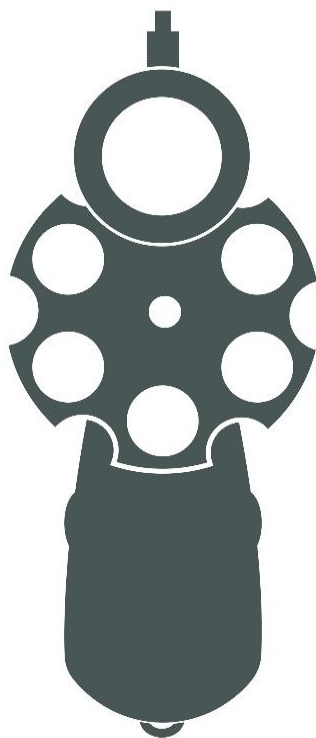
Discharge with intent

Using firearm in  
commission of offence

Pointing a firearm

# There are still many unknowns 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

# We could better understand the impact of organized crime on gun crime if...

There is a data source

but there are

data issues!

- Organized crime/street gang flag is on the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey.
- Flag allows all police services to flag **ANY** criminal incident reported to Statistics Canada as organized crime/street gang related.
- This flag is **not being** reported properly by police services rendering the data unusable.
- Recent efforts by Statistics Canada, Public Safety Canada and the Police Information and Statistics Committee (POLIS) of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACCP) identified concrete ways to improve this flag.
- Structure has not been put in place to report quality data