



# Firearm-related crime in Canada

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Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence

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Statistics  
Canada

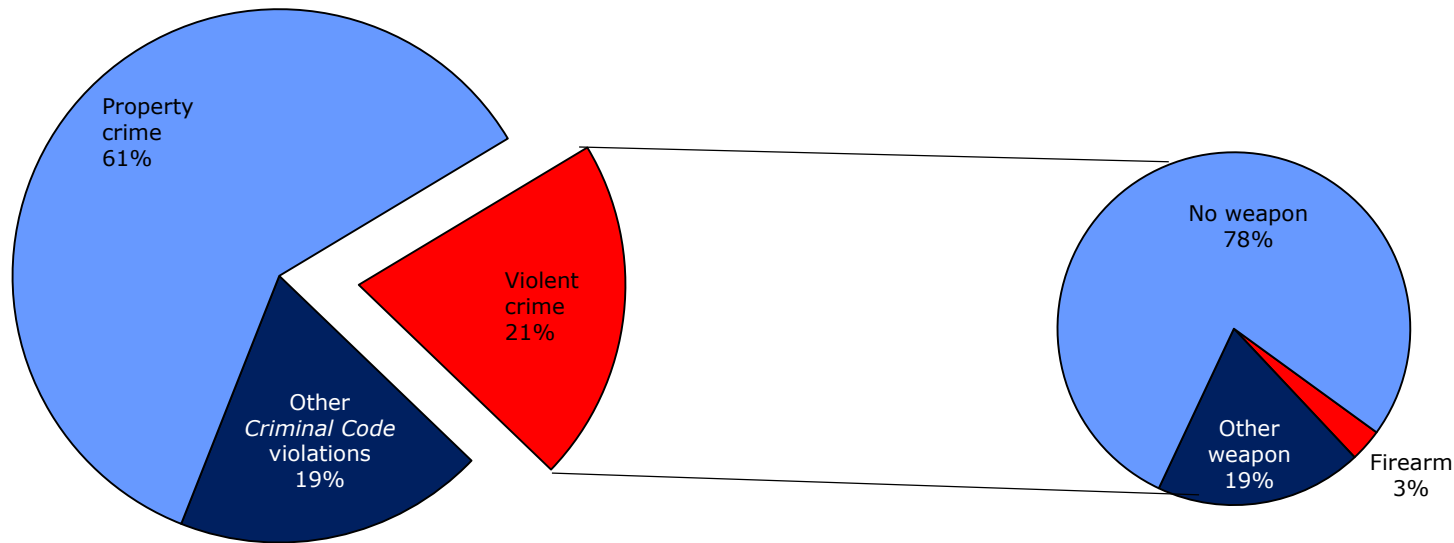
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Canada

## 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 numerous things we do not know about gun crime – origins of the guns, whether gun crime is linked to organized crime

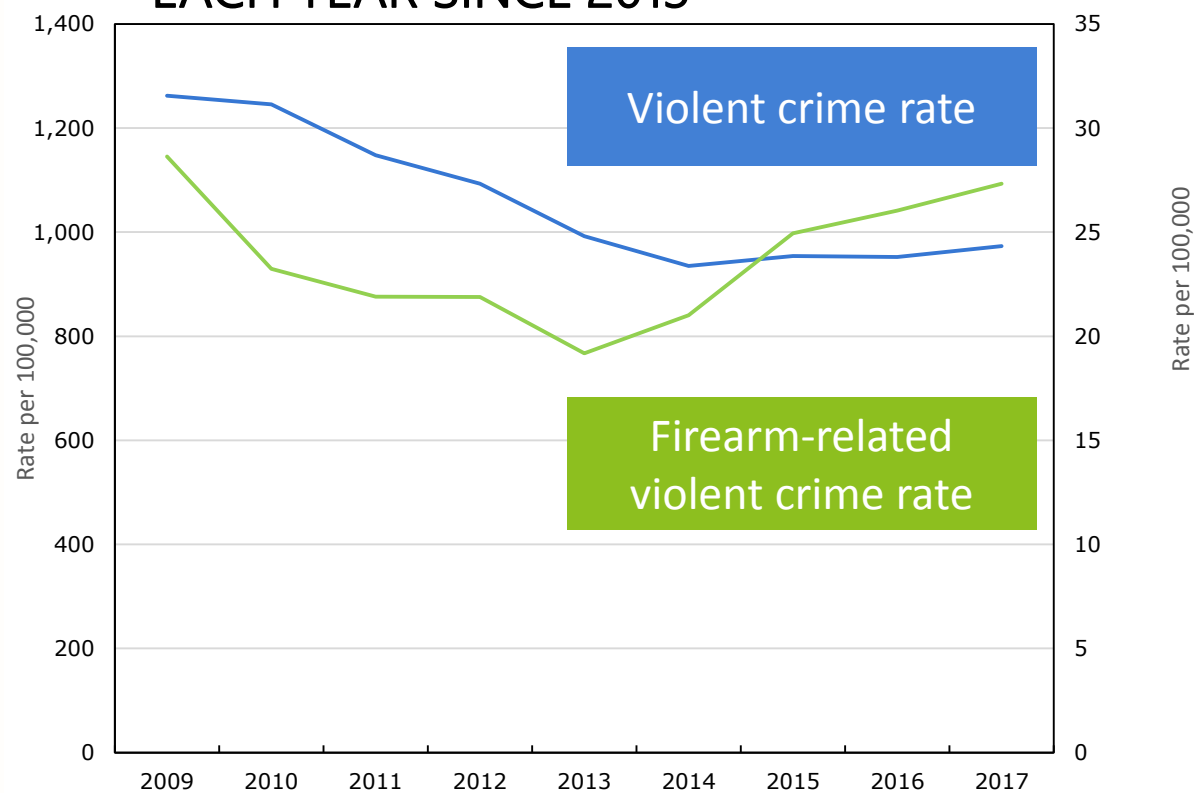
## GUN CRIME IS LESS THAN ONE HALF OF ONE PERCENT OF OVERALL POLICE-REPORTED CRIME IN CANADA



(Excludes Québec)

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

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



(Excludes Québec)

### What we know

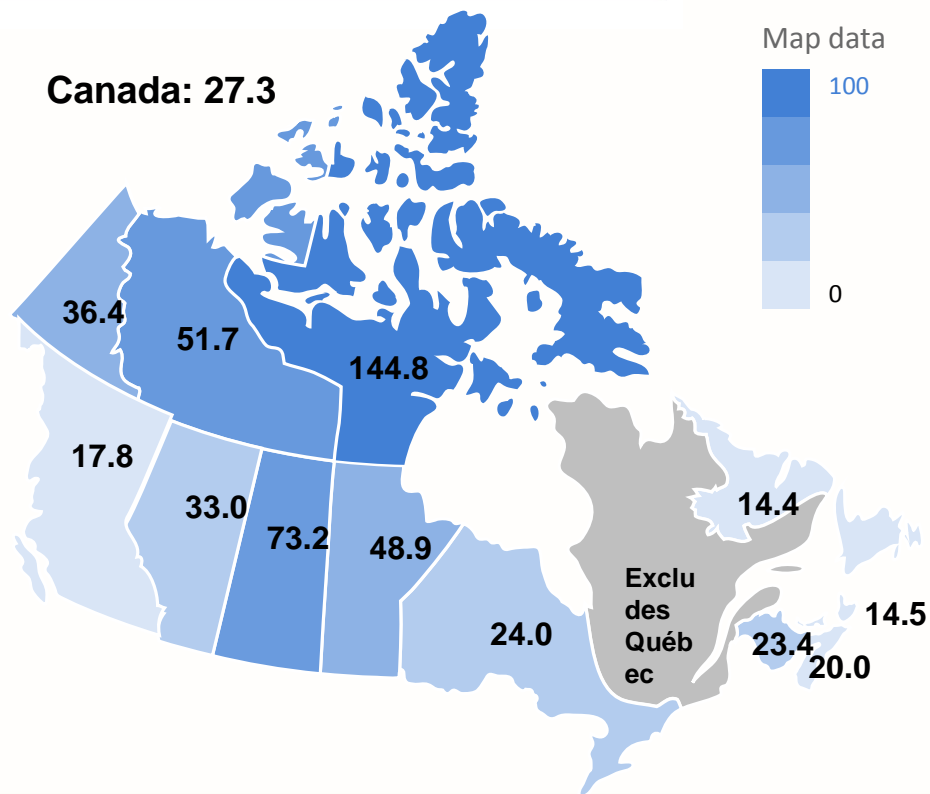
Since 2013:

- 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

## 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

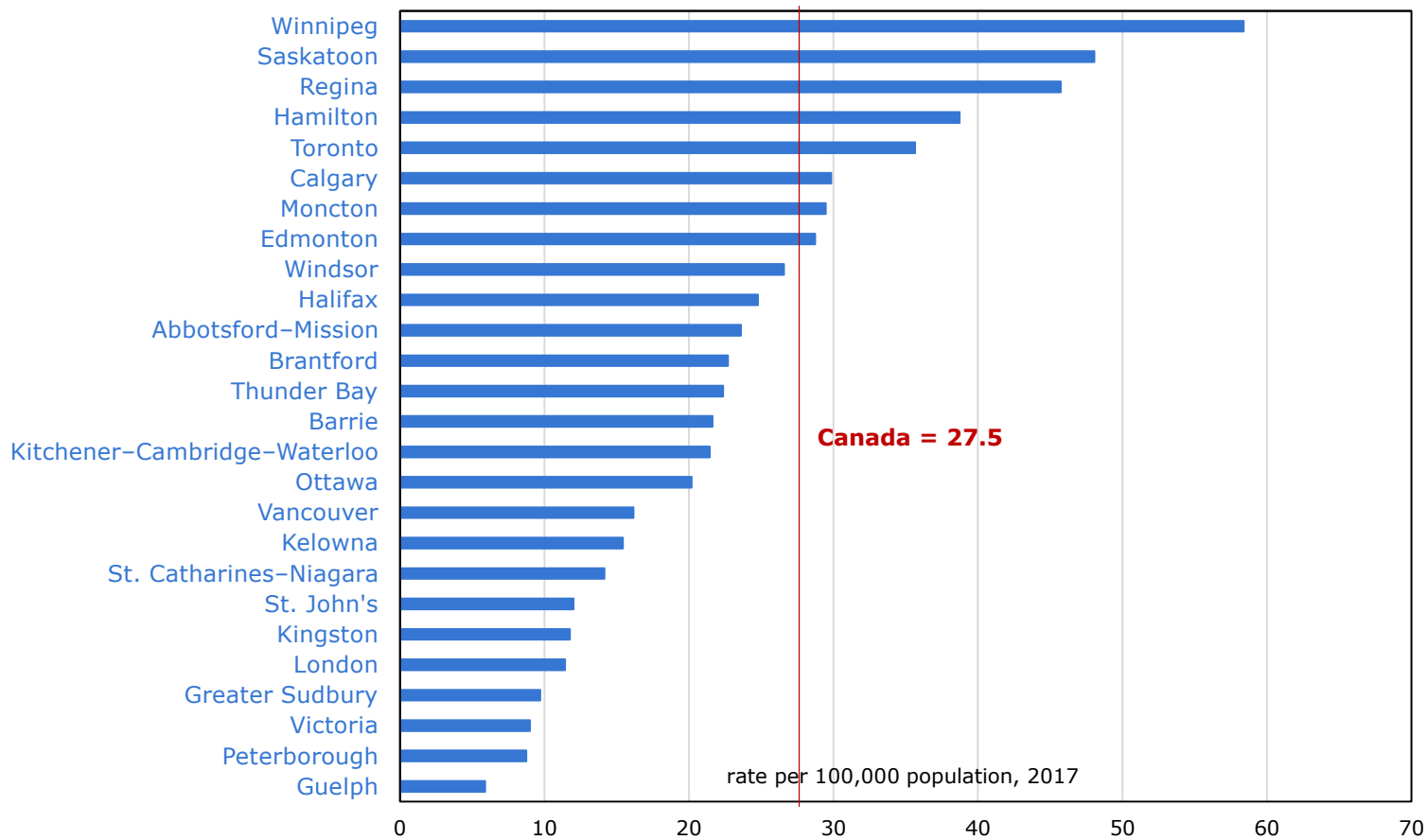
## NUNAVUT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND SASKATCHEWAN HAVE HIGHEST RATES OF FIREARM-RELATED VIOLENT CRIME, 2017



### 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

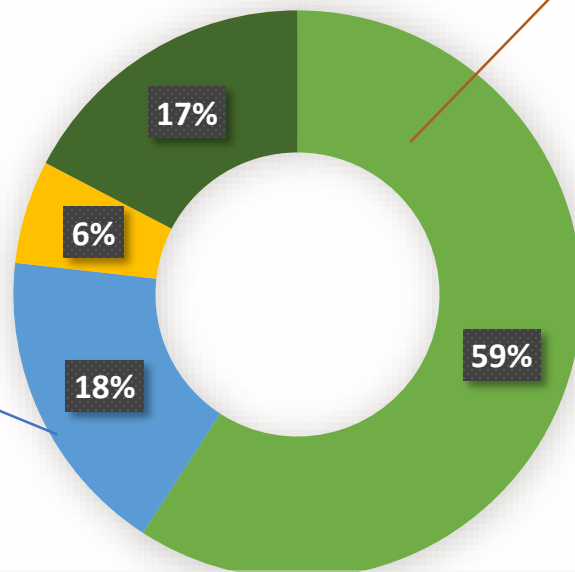


(Excludes Québec)



## MOST POLICE-REPORTED VIOLENT GUN CRIME INVOLVES HANDGUNS

In 2017, 44% of all violent gun crimes in rural Canada involved rifles or shotguns



In 2017, 68% of all violent gun crimes in urban Canada involved handguns

### What we know?

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

■ 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 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 just under 600 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.

## WHAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT FIREARM-RELATED VIOLENT CRIME:

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

Characteristics of  
firearms

Ethnicity and socio-  
economic  
characteristics of  
victims and  
offenders

Involvement of  
Organized Crime  
(in offences other  
than homicide)

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



## QUESTIONS

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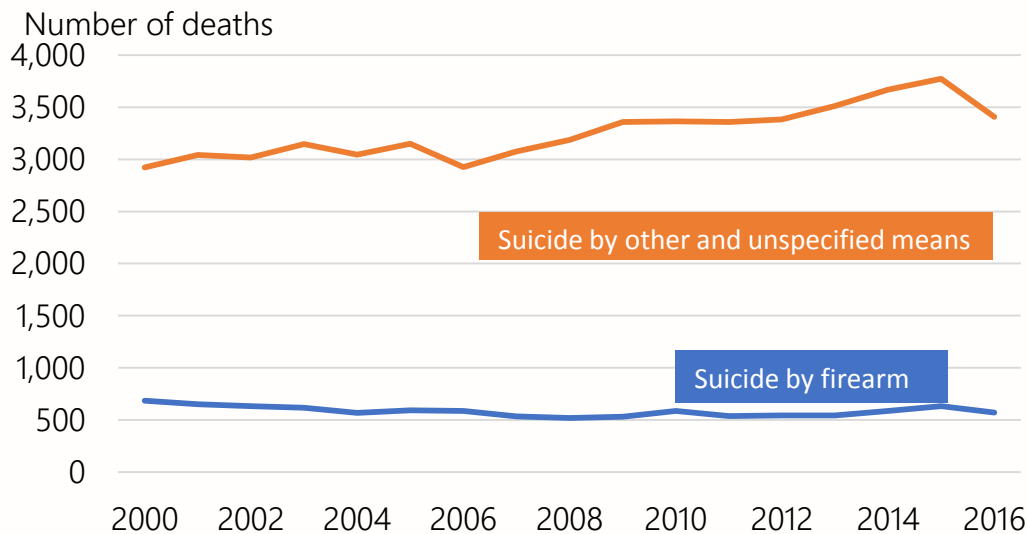
## EXTRA SLIDES

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

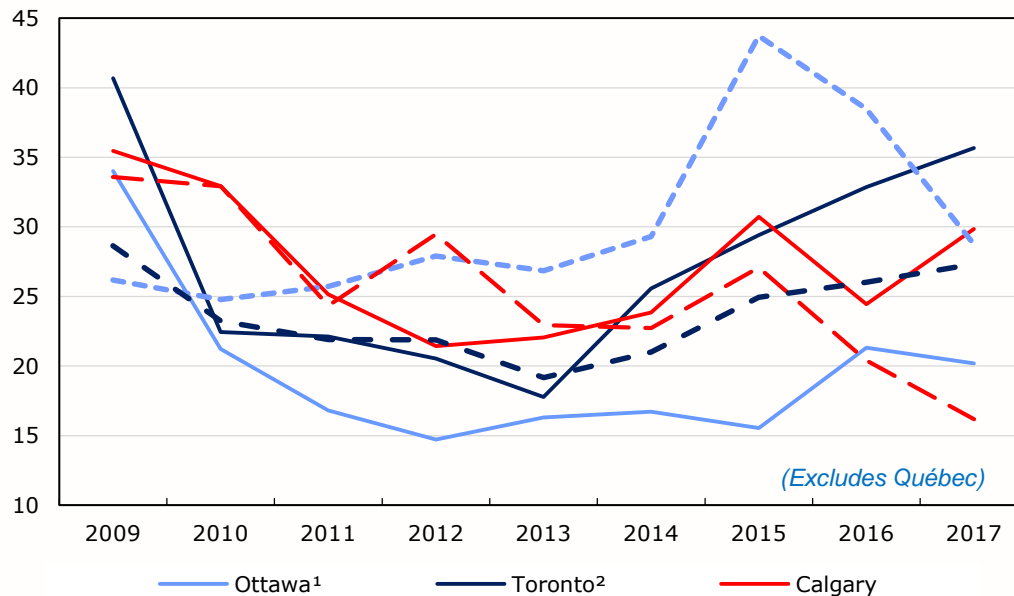


### What we know:

- 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

## 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.

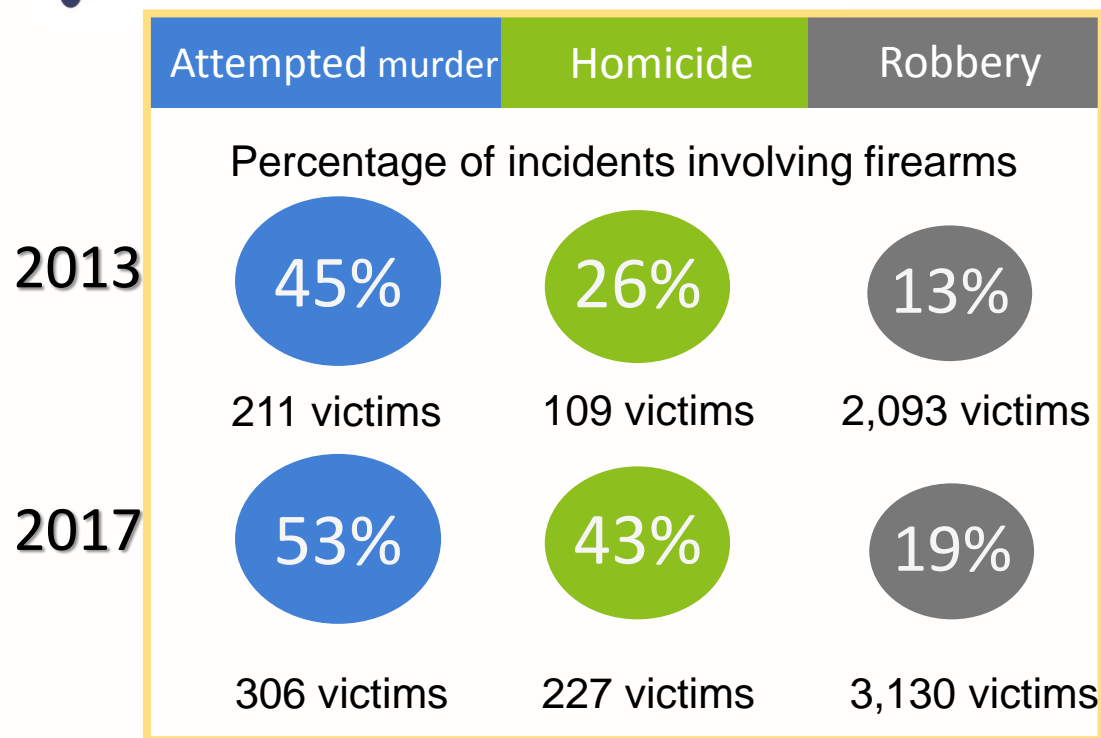
2. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that police the CMA of Toronto.

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

### What we know?

- 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

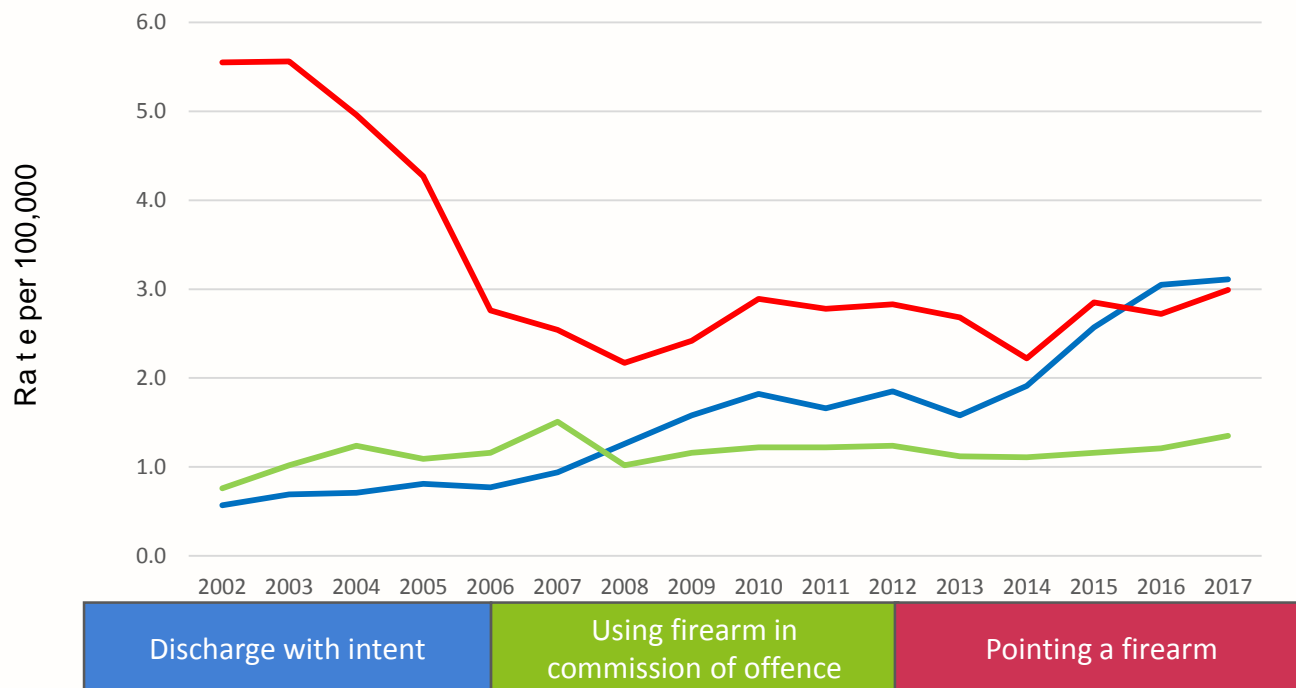


### What we know?

- 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