



## Firearms and violent crime in Canada, 2023

Released by Statistics Canada – February 25, 2025

In 2023, Yukon's rate of firearm-related crime per 1,000 population was 70.8 — the lowest among the territories, and lower than the rates of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Nationally, the rate of firearm-related crime was 36.9 in 2023.

Comparing 2023 to 2022, the rate of firearm-related violent crime in Yukon declined by 8.4% in 2023 and was the second largest decrease of all provinces and territories. In Canada, firearm-related crimes decreased by 1.7% between 2022 and 2023.

### Incidents of police-reported firearm-related violent crime, 2022 and 2023

	2022		2023		Change in firearm rate 2022 to 2023 (%)
	Number	Firearm rate <sup>1</sup>	Number	Firearm rate <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>14,240</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>14,416</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>-1.7</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	124	23.3	118	21.9	-6.1
Prince Edward Island	17	10.2	45	25.9	154.7
Nova Scotia	307	30.1	333	31.6	5.1
New Brunswick	307	41.6	313	41.2	-1.1
Quebec	2,050	25.6	2,015	24.6	-3.9
Ontario	4,843	32.4	4,663	30.3	-6.6
Manitoba	976	71.4	1,142	81.2	13.7
Saskatchewan	1,316	114.1	1,502	126.9	11.2
Alberta	2,571	56.9	2,590	55.1	-3.2
British Columbia	1,516	28.3	1,459	26.4	-6.6
<b>Yukon</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>-8.4</b>
Northwest Territories	106	237.2	77	171.2	-27.8
Nunavut	73	180.3	127	312.2	73.2

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 population.

#### Notes to readers:

Firearm-related violent crime includes incidents where a firearm was present during the commission of an offence and where police determined that the firearm was relevant to the crime, regardless of whether it was used. Firearms include handguns; rifles or shotguns; fully automatic or sawed-off firearms; and firearm-like weapons, such as starter pistols, flare guns, air guns, ghost guns and BB guns. Firearm-specific offences — including discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence and pointing a firearm — are also included in firearm-related violent crime. Percent changes are based on unrounded rates.

Data are drawn from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, a census of all crime known to police services. Police-reported crime statistics conform to a nationally approved set of common crime categories and definitions. The Homicide Survey collects police-reported data on the characteristics of all homicide victims, accused persons and incidents in Canada.

One incident can involve multiple offences. To ensure comparability, data presented in this release are based on the most serious violation in the incident. Police determine the most serious violation according to standardized classification rules in the UCR Survey that consider, for instance, whether the offence is violent, as well as the maximum penalty imposed by the *Criminal Code*. This release uses a hybrid approach — first adopted with the release of 2022 firearm data. Now, each victim is counted as a unique incident, as is each incident without an associated victim record. Every victim and every incident are counted the same way, regardless of whether a victim record was provided by police.

For the purposes of the UCR Survey and the Homicide Survey, a firearm is any barrelled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other projectiles can be discharged and can cause serious bodily injury or death to a person.