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STATISTICS RELATING TO THE GUN CONTROL QUESTION

Canada

MINISTRY OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL
RESEARCH & STATISTICS DEVELOPMENT BRANCH
OTTAWA, MARCH, 1976

ENQUIRIES: TELEPHONE 992-2897

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STATISTICS RELATING TO THE GUN CONTROL QUESTION

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SUBJECT MATTER GUN STOCK, NUMBER	ALTERNATE SUBJECT TITLES HANDGUNS, STOCK OF RIFLES, STOCK OF SHOTGUNS, STOCK OF
---	--

QUESTION
 How many guns are there in Canada, and what proportion of these are handguns, rifles and shotguns?

SHORT RESPONSE
 There are an estimated 10½ million guns in Canada. Out of twenty guns taken at random, it is estimated that about twelve would be rifles, seven shotguns and one a handgun.

DETAILED RESPONSE
 Two approaches have been taken to estimating minimum total gun stocks:

- (1) By summing estimated volumes of imports and domestic production that have occurred during the 20th Century. These estimates have been determined by piecing together fragmentary hard data available, and produce a final estimated minimum gun stock total of 10,029,369 for 1974;
- (2) By relating the growth of gun stock to the total population growth for the period in which hard data is available for both, and by projecting the ratio backwards over earlier years for which the population figures alone are available. The aggregate of the individual annual gun stocks thus determined is the final current gun stock estimate. This approach provides a minimum gun stock estimate of 11,186,148 for 1974, eleven per cent more than the estimated total in (1).

The average of the two totals is 10,607,758, or about 10½ million.

Based on approach (2), the estimated number of each type of weapon, and their proportionate stocks are as follows:

PROPORTIONAL BREAKDOWN OF ESTIMATED GUN STOCK, 1974

TYPE OF WEAPON	ESTIMATED GUN STOCK		
	NUMBER	PER CENT	PER 20
HANDGUNS	717,189	6.4	1.28
RIFLES	6,651,946	59.5	11.90
SHOTGUNS	3,817,013	34.1	6.82
TOTAL	11,186,148	100.0	20.00

The above estimates do not take into account a number of factors which, while influencing total gun stock, are not presently quantifiable: smuggling into and out of Canada, military gun stocks, illegal manufactures, and firearms destroyed, rendered inoperable or now obsolete.

SUBJECT MATTER
GUN STOCK, GROWTH

ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES

QUESTION

What is the annual increase in the gun stock?

SHORT RESPONSE

An estimated 4%, or some 420,000 guns, per year.

DETAILED RESPONSE

The following table reflects annual increases in gun stock computed from the two approaches to calculating gun stock identified on page 1. As indicated, a mean average of the two was then taken, and an average annual rate of growth computed from that.

YEAR	MEANS OF ESTIMATE		
	VOLUME OF IMPORTS & DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES	POPULATION GROWTH	MEAN AVERAGE
1970	4.3	+2.2	+3.3
1971	4.0	2.2	3.1
1972	5.3	2.3	3.8
1973	6.2	2.2	4.3
1974	6.9	2.2	4.6
			AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH
			3.8

An annual rate of growth of 4% applied to the estimated 1974 stock of 10½ million produces an absolute increase of 420,000 guns per year.

STATISTICS RELATING TO THE GUN CONTROL QUESTION

Flu.
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SUBJECT MATTER
MANUFACTURE OF GUNS

ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES
IMPORTATION OF GUNS
SHOTGUNS, IMPORTATION & MANUFACTURE
RIFLES, IMPORTATION & MANUFACTURE
HANDGUNS, IMPORTATION & MANUFACTURE

QUESTION
Where do the different kinds of guns in Canada come from? What are the trends?

SHORT RESPONSE
The number of guns manufactured in Canada just about equals the number imported. All legally-manufactured, non-military, handguns are imported, as are two out of five shotguns and three out of five rifles. Over the last five years, importations are up about 60% and domestic manufactures 90%.

DETAILED RESPONSE

COMPARISON OF FIREARMS IMPORTED & DOMESTICALLY MANUFACTURED, 1970-1974

YEAR	SHOTGUNS				RIFLES				HANDGUNS				TOTAL		% CHANGE OVER PERIOD		
	IMPORTS		DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES		IMPORTS		DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES		IMPORTS		DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES		IMPORTS	DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES	IMPORTS	DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES	
	NO.	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	NO.	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	NO.	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	NO.	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	NO.	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	NO.	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	NO.	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR			
1970	51,227	-	84,000	-	81,469	-	48,000	-	13,975	-	-	-	146,671	-	112,000	-	
1971	55,984	+9.3	73,000	-7.1	76,604	+6.0	51,000	+7.3	74,305	+27.2	-	-	156,893	+7.0	141,000	+6.9	
1972	80,013	+43.0	104,000	+15.6	111,337	+45.3	73,000	+43.1	37,643	+54.9	-	-	229,008	+46.0	177,000	+25.5	
1973	105,650	+32.0	141,000	+35.6	108,093	-7.9	81,000	+11.0	22,475	-40.3	-	-	236,218	+3.2	222,000	+25.5	
1974	79,015	-25.3	140,000	-0.7	124,643	+15.3	115,000	+38.1	28,408	+26.4	-	-	232,066	-1.8	202,000	+13.6	+5%
TOTAL	371,909		559,000		502,143		355,000		176,806				1,000,856		974,000		
%	40.0		60.0		57.9		47.1						57.0		48.0		
													AVERAGE 13.6%		AVERAGE 12.8%		

SOURCES: Imports: External Trade Division, Statistics Canada
Domestic Manufactures: The Canadian Firearm Industry

PREPARED BY: Statistics Division,
Ministry of the Solicitor General

SUBJECT MATTER GUNSTOCK, RELATED TO POPULATION	ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES
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QUESTION
 How does gunstock stack up against the total population?

SHORT RESPONSE
 There is about one gun for every two Canadians, and this relationship has not changed much over the years.

DETAILED RESPONSE

GUN STOCK IN RELATION TO TOTAL POPULATION, 1960 & 1970-74

YEAR	POPULATION, CANADA (000's)	ESTIMATED GUN STOCK			NUMBER OF PERSONS PER GUN
		VOLUME OF IMPORTS & DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES	POPULATION GROWTH	MEAN AVERAGE	
1960	17,870.0	5,557,564	8,103,827	6,830,696	2.6
1970	21,277.0	8,063,304	10,225,009	9,144,157	2.32
1971	21,568.3	8,386,257	10,452,959	9,419,608	2.28
1972	21,830.5	8,833,542	10,689,705	9,761,624	2.29
1973	22,094.7	9,381,887	10,945,555	10,163,721	2.17
1974	22,446.3	10,029,369	11,186,148	10,607,758	2.11

SUBJECT MATTER STOCK OF FIREARMS	ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES STOCK OF FIREARMS, UNITED STATES HANDGUNS
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QUESTION
 How does the Canadian stock of guns compare with that in the United States, especially for handguns?

SHORT RESPONSE
 Proportionately to population, the United States has about 1½ times as many firearms as Canada, although the actual count is some 13½ times as great. The United States has about 5 times as many handguns per person as Canada, and the actual stock is some 60 times as great.

DETAILED RESPONSE

	<u>TOTAL GUNSTOCK</u>		
	<u>UNITED STATES</u>	<u>CANADA</u>	<u>FACTOR U.S./CANADA</u>
Approximate Number of Firearms	135 million (1)	10 million (2)	X13½
Approximate Population	200 million	20 million	X10
Firearms per capita	0.7	0.5	X1.4

(Sources: (1) United States, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, as at January 1, 1975
 (2) Estimate by Statistics Division, Ministry of the Solicitor General, as at 1974).

	<u>TOTAL HANDGUN STOCK</u>		
	<u>UNITED STATES</u>	<u>CANADA</u>	<u>FACTOR U.S./CANADA</u>
Approximate Number of Handguns	40 million (1)	0.7 million (2)	X57
Approximate Population	200 million	20 million	X10
Handguns per capita	0.2	0.04	X5

(Sources: (1) United States, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, as at January 1, 1975

(2) Sum of: Registered at R.C.M.P. (February 1, 1976) 644,481

Estimate of Non-Registered (Estimate by
 R.C.M.P., Parliamentary
 Enquiry 2533, dated
 May 22, 1975) 50,000
 694,481

SUBJECT MATTER

ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES

GUN OWNERS, NUMBER

QUESTION

How many people in Canada own guns, and how are they distributed?

SHORT RESPONSE

The commonly quoted figure is that there are 3 million gun owners in Canada. Reasoned estimates place the minimum number at 2 million. There is reason to believe, therefore, that there are some 2 to 3 million gun owners in Canada. Of these, it is estimated that 1/3 are in Ontario, about 20% in each of Quebec and the Prairies, and 10% in each of the Maritimes and British Columbia.

DETAILED RESPONSE

Firearms and Responsible Ownership (FARO) have stated on a number of occasions that there are some 3 million gun owners in Canada, and use of this figure has become widespread. The derivation of this figure has not been subject to any broad scrutiny.

An alternative estimate of 2 million gun owners has been derived as an average of three conceptually different approaches;

<u>APPROACH</u>	<u>ESTIMATE OF GUN OWNERS</u>
(1) <u>HOUSEHOLDS</u> - relating market survey data on households possessing guns to data on households age and sex composition	2.0 million
(2) <u>GUNSTOCK</u> - relating estimated gun stock to industry perceptions of the number of guns per owner	2.1 million
(3) <u>HUNTER'S LICENCES</u> - relating estimated number of individuals to whom hunters licences are issued to perceived total gun-owning universe	1.8 million
AVERAGE	2.0 million

Estimates by: Information Systems & Statistics Division,
Ministry of the Solicitor General

Based on the gun owner estimate in (1) HOUSEHOLDS, the regional distribution is as follows:

	<u>NO. OF OWNERS, 1974</u>	<u>%</u>
ATLANTIC	229,899	11.2
QUEBEC	473,078	23.1
ONTARIO	604,240	33.4
PRAIRIES	416,821	20.4
BRITISH COLUMBIA	240,151	11.8
CANADA	2,044,189	100.0

STATISTICS RELATING TO THE GUN CONTROL QUESTION

SUBJECT MATTER FIREARM DEATHS	ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES ACCIDENTS SUICIDES HOMICIDES LEGAL INTERVENTION UNDETERMINED INTENTION
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QUESTION
 How many people die from gun shot wounds in a year, and what are the circumstances and trends?

SHORT RESPONSE
 Almost 1,500 persons a year through accidents, suicides, homicides, police action and undetermined intention. Such deaths generally have increased almost 30% since 1970.

DETAILED RESPONSE

FIREARM DEATHS BY ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, HOMICIDE, LEGAL INTERVENTION & UNDETERMINED INTENTION, CANADA, 1970-1974

TYPE OF DEATH	1970		1971			1972			1973			1974		
	#	%	#	%	% CHANGE	#	%	% CHANGE	#	%	% CHANGE	#	%	% CHANGE
Accidents	129	11.36	143	11.01	+10.85	102	8.04	-28.67	123	9.24	+20.58	122	8.32	-0.7
Suicides	796	70.07	924	71.18	+16.08	935	73.73	+1.19	950	71.37	+1.60	1,021	69.66	+7.4
Homicides	184	16.19	190	14.63	+3.26	203	16.00	+6.84	213	16.00	+4.92	269	18.34	+26.1
Legal Intervention	11	0.96	14	1.07	+27.27	7	0.55	-50.00	10	0.75	+42.85	8	0.54	-20.0
Undetermined Intention	16	1.42	27	2.11	+68.75	21	1.68	-22.22	35	2.64	+66.66	42	3.20	+34.3
TOTAL	1,136	100.00	1,290	100.00	+14.26	1,268	100.00	+2.36	1,331	100.00	+4.96	1,467	100.00	+10.2

% CHANGE 1970-1974	
TYPE OF DEATH	%
Accidents	-5.43
Suicides	+28.3
Homicides	+46.2
Legal Intervention	-27.3
Undetermined Intention	+193.8
TOTAL	+29.1

SOURCES: (1970-1973): Statistics Canada, *Cause of Death* (Catalogue 84-203)
 (1974): Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics Division.

PREPARED BY: Statistics Division,
 Ministry of the Solicitor General,
 OTTAWA, Ontario.

SUBJECT MATTER

ACCIDENTAL FIREARM DEATHS

ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES

QUESTION

What is the incidence of accidental death by firearms?

SHORT RESPONSE

Accidental firearm deaths have averaged 124 a year since 1970, about 1% of all accidental deaths. A quarter of them are self-inflicted.

DETAILED RESPONSE

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS, CAUSED BY FIREARMS AND OTHER, CANADA, 1970-1974

CAUSE OF DEATH	1970		1971			1972			1973			1974		
	#	%	#	%	% CHANGE	#	%	% CHANGE	#	%	% CHANGE	#	%	% CHANGE
ACCIDENTS														
- Self-inflicted	35		33		-5.7	31		-6.1	28		-9.7	27		
- Other & Unspecified	94		110		+17.0	71		-35.5	95		+33.8	95		
- Firearm Missiles Total	129	1.1	143	1.2	+10.9	102	0.8	-29.7	123	0.9	+20.6	122	0.9	-0.8
- Other Than Firearm Missiles	11,180	98.9	11,788	98.8	+5.4	12,023	99.2	+7.1	12,990	99.1	+8.6	12,822	99.1	-1.0
TOTAL	11,309	100.0	11,931	100.0	+5.5	12,125	100.0	+6.7	13,013	100.0	+2.7	12,944	100.0	-1.0

CAUSE OF DEATH	% CHANGE 1970-1974
ACCIDENTS	
- Self-inflicted	-22.9
- Other & Unspecified	+1.1
- Firearm Missiles Total	-5.5
- Other Than Firearm Missiles	+4.7
TOTAL	+4.5

SOURCES: (1970-1973): Statistics Canada, Cause of Death (Catalogue 04-203)
(1974): Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics Division.

PREPARED BY: Statistics Division,
Ministry of the Solicitor General,
OTTAWA, Ontario

SUBJECT MATTER SUICIDE FIREARM DEATH	ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES HOMICIDE FIREARM DEATHS
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QUESTION
What is the incidence of suicide by firearms?

SHORT RESPONSE
Over a third of all suicides are by firearms, more than 1,000 in 1974. Firearm suicides account for 70% of all firearm deaths.

DETAILED RESPONSE

SUICIDAL DEATHS, CAUSED BY FIREARM AND OTHER, CANADA, 1970-1974

CAUSE OF DEATH	1970		1971			1972			1973			1974		
	#	%	#	%	% CHANGE	#	%	% CHANGE	#	%	% CHANGE	#	%	% CHANGE
SUICIDES														
- Firearms and Explosives	796	33.0	924	36.1	+16.1	935	35.2	+1.2	950	34.3	+1.6	1,021	35.2	+7.1
- Other Than Firearms and Explosives	1,617	67.0	1,635	63.9	+1.1	1,722	64.8	+5.3	1,823	65.7	+5.9	1,881	64.8	+3.2
TOTAL	2,413	100.0	2,559	100.0	+6.1	2,657	100.0	+3.8	2,773	100.0	+4.4	2,902	100.0	+4.7

CAUSE OF DEATH	% CHANGE 1970-1974
SUICIDES	
- Firearms & Explosives	+28.3
- Other Than Firearms and Explosives	+15.3
TOTAL	+20.3

SOURCES: (1970-1973): Statistics Canada, Cause of Death (Catalogue 84-203)
(1974): Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics Division

PREPARED BY: Statistics Division,
Ministry of the Solicitor General,
OTTAWA, Ontario

In 1974, a typical year, suicides accounted for 70% of all firearm deaths. They were about four times as frequent as homicide firearm deaths:

FIREARM DEATHS, 1974

	#	%
ACCIDENTS	122	8.3
SUICIDES	1,021	69.6
HOMICIDES	269	18.3
LEGAL INTERVENTION	8	0.5
UNDETERMINED INTENTION	<u>47</u>	<u>3.2</u>
TOTAL	1,467	100.0

SUBJECT MATTER HOMICIDE FIREARM DEATHS	ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES
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QUESTION

What is the incidence of homicide firearm death?

SHORT RESPONSE
There were about 270 such deaths in 1974, almost exactly half of all homicides. The number jumped 26% in 1974 over a year earlier.

DETAILED RESPONSE

Attention is first drawn to the definition of homicidal death indicated below, from which it will be noted that homicidal death is not synonymous with murder occurring in Canada.

About 270 homicidal firearm deaths were reported in 1974, almost exactly half of all reported homicides. This proportion was essentially unchanged from earlier years.

However, while the year-to-year percent increase had averaged 5%, the jump in 1974 over 1973 was over 25%. This is particularly significant considering that, at 2.6%, the increase in the overall incidence of all types of homicide in 1974 over 1973 was the lowest recorded in the 1970's.

HOMICIDAL DEATHS, CAUSED BY FIREARMS AND OTHER, CANADA, 1970-1974

CAUSE OF DEATH	1970		1971			1972			1973			1974		
	#	%	#	%	% CHANGE	#	%	% CHANGE	#	%	% CHANGE	#	%	% CHANGE
HOMICIDES														
- Firearms and Explosives	184	43.7	190	41.5	+3.3	203	40.2	+6.8	213	40.3	+4.9	269	49.5	+26.3
- Other Than Firearms and Explosives	237	56.3	268	58.5	+13.1	302	59.8	+12.7	316	59.7	+4.6	271	50.5	-13.3
TOTAL	421	100.0	458	100.0	+8.8	505	100.0	+16.3	529	100.0	+4.8	543	100.0	+2.6

CAUSE OF DEATH	% CHANGE 1970-1974
HOMICIDES	
- Firearms and Explosives	+6.2
- Other Than Firearms and Explosives	+15.6
TOTAL	+29.0

SOURCES: (1970-1973): Statistics Canada, *Cause of Death* (Catalogue 84-203)
(1974): Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics Division.

PREPARED BY: Statistics Division,
Ministry of the Solicitor General,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

DEFINITION OF HOMICIDAL DEATH

Homicidal Deaths as officially recorded on provincial death certificates reported to Statistics Canada INCLUDE murders, infanticides, non-accidental manslaughter, assaults (by any means) and poisonings (by another person); EXCLUDE manslaughter, assaults and poisonings reported by coroners as accidental, homicides as result of intervention of police and legal executions. Deaths are classified by residence; hence the above figures INCLUDE deaths of Canadian residents occurring in the U.S.A. but EXCLUDE deaths of all non-Canadian residents occurring in Canada.

SUBJECT MATTER FIREARM DEATHS, COMPARED TO OTHERS	ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES
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QUESTION
 How does death by firearms compare to death from other causes?

SHORT RESPONSE
 Only 2 types of death are less frequent than firearm and explosive deaths - Accidental Poisonings and Fires and Flames. For every firearm death there will be about 20 deaths from cancer and 50 from heart disease and related conditions.

DETAILED RESPONSE

TYPE OF DEATH	1974	
	#	PER FIREARM DEATH
Death by Firearms or Explosives (in Accidents, Suicides, Homicides, Legal Intervention, Undetermined Intention)	1,530	-

Disease or Illness		
- Neoplasms (1)	34,065	22.3
- Diseases of Circulatory System (2)	82,155	53.7
- TOTAL	149,925	98.0
Accidents, Poisonings, Violence		
- Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents	6,225	4.1
- Accidental Poisonings	695	0.5
- Accidental Falls	1,831	1.2
- Fires and Flames	805	0.5

(1) Includes malignant neoplasms ("cancer") of such regions as the buccal cavity, digestive organs, respiratory system, bone and skin and genito-urinary organs.

(2) Includes such conditions as active rheumatic fever, heart disease and hypertensive disease.

SOURCES: (1970-1973): Statistics Canada, Causes of Death (Catalogue 84-203)
 (1974): Statistics Canada, Vital Statistics Division

PREPARED BY: Statistics Division,
 Ministry of the Solicitor General,
 OTTAWA, Ontario

SUBJECT MATTER
VIOLENT CRIME TRENDS

ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES

QUESTION

Over time, what relationship is there between the incidence of crime in general, violent crime and criminal use of firearms?

SHORT RESPONSE

All are up in absolute terms, but remained about the same proportionately.

DETAILED RESPONSE

Comparing 1974 with 1970, the percentage increases in total violent offences and total murder were less than the percentage increase in total criminal code offences, while the percent increase for firearm murders was greater. However, the proportion of total crime represented by violent crime, total murder, firearms murder and total robbery remained practically the same.

CRIME CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ACTUAL CRIMES				% OF CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	
	1970	1974	INCREASE 1970-1974		1970	1974
	#	#	#	%	%	%
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES	1,107,449	1,459,845	352,396	UP 31.8	100.0	100.0
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE VIOLENT OFFENCES	102,348	126,353	24,005	UP 23.5	9.2	8.7
TOTAL MURDER - OFFENCES	430	539	109	UP 25.3	0.04	0.04
TOTAL MURDER - VICTIMS	433	545	112	UP 25.9	0.04	0.04
FIREARM MURDER - VICTIMS	178	272	94	UP 52.8	0.02	0.02
TOTAL ROBBERY	11,630	16,953	5,323	UP 45.8	1.0	1.2
FIREARM ROBBERY	N/A	5,857	-	-	N/A	-

SOURCES: Statistics Canada, Crime Statistics (Police)
 Statistics Canada, Ten Year Firearm Study, 1961-1974
 Statistics Canada, Preliminary 1974 Police Statistics

SUBJECT MATTER MURDER, FIREARMS	ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES
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QUESTION
 To what extent are firearms used in murder, and what are the trends?

SHORT RESPONSE
 Firearm murders are on the increase both absolutely and proportionately. Since 1970, firearm murders have increased over 50% - about twice the rate of increase in murders as a whole. One out of every two murders is now by gunshot.

DETAILED RESPONSE

	MURDER VICTIMS				
	NUMBER REPORTED			% OF REPORTED MURDER	
	1970	1974	% CHANGE	1970	1974
Firearms Murders	178	272	UP 52.8	41.1	49.9
Other Murders	255	273	UP 7.1	58.9	50.1
TOTAL MURDERS	433	545	UP 25.9	100.0	100.0

(Source: Statistics Canada, Ten Year Firearms Study, 1961-1974)

SUBJECT MATTER MURDER, FIREARMS	ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES HANDGUNS RIFLES SHOTGUNS
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QUESTION
 What types of firearms are used in murder, and what are the trends?

SHORT RESPONSE
 While, in 1970, about three-quarters of firearm murders involved long guns, the proportion has dropped to about two-thirds and the use of handguns is on the increase. In absolute terms, the number of murders by handgun has more than doubled in four years.

DETAILED RESPONSE

FIREARM TYPES	FIREARM MURDER VICTIMS			% OF FIREARM MURDERS	
	NUMBER REPORTED			1970	1974
	1970	1974	SIGNIFICANT % CHANGE		
TOTAL HANDGUNS	33	71	UP 115.2	18.6	26.1
Rifle	112	122	UP 8.9	62.9	44.9
Sawed-off Rifle	1	6		0.6	2.2
Shotgun	25	55	UP 120.0	14.0	20.2
Sawed-off Shotgun	-	3		-	1.1
TOTAL LONG GUNS	138	186	UP 34.8	77.5	68.4
UNKNOWN TYPE	7	15		3.9	5.5
* TOTAL FIREARMS	178	272	UP 52.8	100.0	100.0

(Source: Statistics Canada, Ten Year Firearm Study, 1961-1974)

<p>SUBJECT MATTER</p> <p>MURDER, FIREARMS</p>	<p>ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES</p> <p>SUSPECT - VICTIM RELATIONSHIPS</p>																				
<p>QUESTION</p> <p>What factor do firearms play in murder as compared to the relationship of suspects to victims?</p>																					
<p>SHORT RESPONSE</p> <p>Generally, firearms are used as a murder weapon most often when the suspect and victim are known to each other. Their use is twice as prevalent in Love Triangles and Lover's Quarrels as it is in murder resulting from other criminal acts.</p>																					
<p>DETAILED RESPONSE</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL MURDER VICTIMS THAT WERE SHOT (1967-1974)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Love triangles/Lover's Quarrels</td> <td style="text-align: right;">58.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strangers/Unknown</td> <td style="text-align: right;">52.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Domestic</td> <td style="text-align: right;">47.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Close Friends</td> <td style="text-align: right;">46.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unsolved</td> <td style="text-align: right;">44.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Relationship</td> <td style="text-align: right;">41.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Casual Acquaintances</td> <td style="text-align: right;">39.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Criminal Acts</td> <td style="text-align: right;">27.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">44.2%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Source: Statistics Canada, <u>Ten Year Firearm Study, 1967-1974</u>)</p>			PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL MURDER VICTIMS THAT WERE SHOT (1967-1974)	Love triangles/Lover's Quarrels	58.3%	Strangers/Unknown	52.6%	Domestic	47.2%	Close Friends	46.7%	Unsolved	44.5%	Business Relationship	41.0%	Casual Acquaintances	39.3%	Criminal Acts	27.4%	TOTAL	44.2%
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SUBJECT MATTER
MURDER, FIREARM

ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES
HANDGUNS
RIFLES
SHOTGUNS
SUSPECT-VICTIM RELATIONSHIPS

QUESTION

What kinds of firearms are most prevalent according to different suspect-victim relationships in murder?

SHORT RESPONSE

Rifles are most prevalently used in both domestic and non-domestic murders, while handguns are the murder weapon in two-thirds of murders resulting from other criminal acts.

DETAILED RESPONSE

FIREARM MURDERS - 1974

SUSPECT-VICTIM RELATIONSHIP

<u>WEAPON USED</u>	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>NON-DOMESTIC</u>	<u>CRIMINAL ACT</u>
Rifle	56.7%	49.5%	15.8%
Shotgun	22.7	23.4	15.8
Handgun	9.3	21.6	68.4

(Source: Statistics Canada, Ten Year Firearm Study, 1967-1974)

SUBJECT MATTER ROBBERY, FIREARMS	ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES
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QUESTION
What is the extent of firearms use in Armed Robbery, and what are the trends?

SHORT RESPONSE
There are two chances in three that when an armed robbery occurs, it will involve a firearm. The number of robberies involving firearms is increasing at a little less than twice the rate of increase for robberies as a whole.

DETAILED RESPONSE

<u>ROBBERY, 1974</u>			
	#	%	%
		<u>TOTAL ROBBERY</u>	<u>ARMED ROBBERY</u>
Firearms	5,857	34.5	67.6
Other Offensive Weapons	2,809	16.6	32.4
TOTAL ARMED ROBBERY	8,666	51.1	100.0
Other Robbery	8,287	48.9	
*TOTAL ROBBERY	16,953	100.0	

(Source: Statistics Canada, Preliminary 1974 Crime Statistics)

<u>ROBBERY, FIRST QUARTERS 1974 & 1975</u>							
	<u>FIRST QUARTER, 1974</u>			<u>FIRST QUARTER, 1975</u>			<u>% CHANGE</u>
	#	% TOTAL ROBBERY	% ARMED ROBBERY	#	% TOTAL ROBBERY	% ARMED ROBBERY	
Firearms	1,214	34.4	67.2	2,106	42.7	71.1	UP 73.5
Other Offensive Weapons	593	16.8	32.8	856	17.3	28.9	UP 44.4
TOTAL ARMED ROBBERY	1,807	51.2	100.0	2,962	60.0	100.0	UP 63.9
Other Robbery	1,721	48.8		1,974	40.0		UP 14.7
*TOTAL ROBBERY	3,528	100.0		4,936	100.0		UP 39.9

(Source: Statistics Canada, Preliminary 1974 Crime Statistics)

SUBJECT MATTER ROBBERY, FIREARMS	ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES HANDGUNS RIFLES SHOTGUNS
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QUESTION
 What types of firearms are used most extensively in armed robbery?

SHORT RESPONSE
 In two armed robberies out of three, the weapon will be an apparent handgun. In the third offence, the probability is either a long gun - probably a rifle - or some non-lethal instrument such as a starter's pistol, toy gun, etc.

DETAILED RESPONSE
 Excepting a minority of cases where the weapon is actually recovered, data on the type of weapon used in armed robbery reflects the observations of the victim during the course of the offence. This is necessarily perceptual and, therefore, subject to error.

TYPES OF FIREARMS USED IN ARMED ROBBERY, SELECTED MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS

FIRST QUARTER, 1975

	VANCOUVER	EDMONTON	WINNIPEG	METRO TORONTO	OTTAWA	HALIFAX	AVERAGE
TOTAL HANDGUNS	65.2%	40.0%	52.0%	66.7%	86.6%	80.0%	65.1%
Rifle	10.1	-	20.0	3.1	1.9	-	5.9
Sawed-off Rifle	-	24.0	-	5.2	-	-	4.9
Shotgun	3.4	-	-	0.5	3.8	10.0	3.1
Sawed-off Shotgun	1.1	-	4.0	1.6	3.8	10.0	3.4
TOTAL LONG GUNS	14.6	24.0	24.0	10.4	9.6	20.0	17.2
TOTAL OTHER ⁽¹⁾	20.2	36.0	24.0	22.9	3.8	-	17.8
* TOTAL FIREARMS	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(1) Starter's Pistols, Pellet Guns, Toy Guns, Simulations, etc.

(Source: Special Survey, Ministry of the Solicitor General, July, 1975)

SUBJECT MATTER

PUBLIC OPINION

ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT TITLES

PUBLIC OPINION, UNITED STATES

QUESTION

What is Canadian public opinion concerning Registration of Firearms and Possession of Handguns, and how does it compare with opinion in the United States?

SHORT RESPONSE

Four out of five Canadians favour registration of all firearms and feel there should be a law forbidding possession of handgun. In the United States, two-thirds favour registration, but a majority are opposed to any law forbidding handgun possession.

DETAILED RESPONSE

Two Gallup Poll Questions:

(a) "Do you favour or oppose the registration of all firearms?"

	<u>CANADA</u>	<u>U.S.A.</u>
Favour	83%	67%
Oppose	13	27
No opinion	4	6

(b) "Here is a question about pistols and revolvers. Do you think there should or should not be a law which would forbid the possession of this type of gun except by the police and other authorized persons?"

Should be a law forbidding possession	87%	41%
Should not be	15	55
No opinion	4	4

(Source: Friedland, M.L. "Gun Control: The Options", Criminal Law Quarterly, December, 1975, citing a Gallup Poll reported in the Toronto Star on August 9, 1975, and a study conducted by the American Gallup Poll in March, 1975).

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