

Firearms facts for Alberta and Canada

- Firearm-related deaths account for nearly 10% of all injury deaths in Alberta over the past five years.¹
- In 1997, 401 suicides were completed in Alberta. Nearly 20% of these involved the use of a firearm.²
- Of Albertan homes, 39% contain guns. Nationally, Alberta ranks first among the provinces in the percentage of homes with guns.³
- Alberta has one of the highest death rates in the country (6.2 per 100,000 population). The national rate is 4.6 per 100,000 population.⁴
- A home with a gun is 5 times more likely to be the scene of a suicide and 3 times more likely to be the scene of a murder than a home without a gun.⁵
- During 1997 in Alberta, more young people died as a result of an encounter with a firearm than due to leukemia.²
- During 1997 in Alberta, 95% of all deaths involving firearms were intentional.¹
- During 1996 in Alberta, more than three people are hospitalized each month with unintentional firearm-related injuries.⁸
- Among 26 industrialized countries, Canada ranked 5th in firearm-related deaths among children younger than 15 years.⁶
- The rate of children killed with guns in Alberta is almost twice the national average. In fact it is comparable to the combined rates of Israel and Northern Ireland.⁷

1. Vital Statistics, Annual Review (1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997), Alberta Municipal Affairs

2. Vital Statistics, Annual Review 1997, Alberta Municipal Affairs

3. Department of Justice "Fact Sheet: Number of Firearm Owners and Firearms in Canada"; 1997

4. Kwing Hung. Firearm Statistics (Supplementary Table); Department of Justice; 1995

5. Kellermann A.L. Et Al "Gun Ownership as a Risk Factor for Homicide in the Home"; *New England Journal of Medicine*; Oct 1993 and Kellerman A.L. Et Al "Suicide in the Home in Relation to Gun Ownership"; *New England Journal of Medicine*; August 13, 1992

6. Centers for Disease Control; "Rates of Homicide, Suicide, and Firearm Related Death Among Children – 26 Industrialized Countries" MMWR Vol. 46/No. 5, 1997

7. Kwing Hung. Firearm Statistics; Department of Justice; 1997 and Centers for Disease Control "Rates of Homicide, Suicide, and Firearm Related Death Among Children – 26 Industrialized Countries" MMWR Vol. 46/No. 5, 1997

8. Alberta Inpatient Separations; CIHI Database, 1996

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