

This report summarizes the number of homicide deaths or suspicious deaths in B.C. reported between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2022. Homicide is defined as a death due to injury intentionally inflicted by action of another person. **Homicide is a neutral term that does not imply fault or blame.**

**Caveats:** As the BCCS operates in a live database environment, the data are considered preliminary and subject to change. These data were compiled by date of death, which may differ from the date of injury. In some cases, the death may occur months or years after injury.

**Data and trends should be interpreted with caution as the data require time to settle; cases that are currently classified as undetermined may be updated and those classified as homicide may also change as the coroner's investigation concludes.**

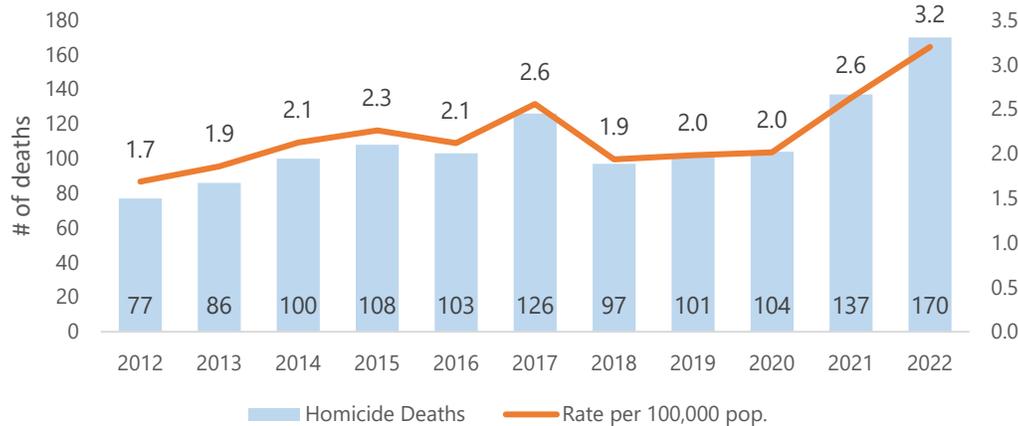
### 2012-2022 Summary:

- The average annual number of homicide deaths was 110. The average annual rate was 2.2 deaths per 100,000 population.
- Males accounted for 76% of deaths. Since 2018, there has been upward trend in the number of female and male homicide deaths, with both showing a similar increase. The proportion of male to female homicide deaths have remained steady from 2012-2022 (*Fig. 2*).
- About 49% of decedents were aged 19-39 (*Fig. 3*).
- 39% of homicide deaths occurred in the Fraser Health Authority region, followed by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority region (20%) (*Fig. 4*).
- There were 135 intimate partner violence-related deaths and 99 family violence-related homicide deaths (*Table 4*).
- There were 50 police-involved homicide deaths (*Table 5*).

### 2022 Summary:

- There were 170 suspected homicide deaths reported in B.C., equating to a rate of 3.2 deaths per 100,000 population (*Fig. 1*).
- There was a 24% increase over the number of homicide deaths in 2021 (137 deaths) and 63% increase compared to 2020 (104 deaths).
- The largest increases were seen in the 30-39 age group (29 deaths in 2021 to 46 deaths in 2022) and the 50-59 age group (15 deaths in 2021 to 23 deaths in 2022) (*Table 2*).
- The Fraser and Interior Health Authorities experienced the highest number of homicide deaths in 2022 (69 and 37 deaths, respectively) and the greatest increases from 2021 (46 and 26 deaths, respectively) (*Table 3*).
- There were 16 homicides suspected to have involved an intimate partner, accounting for 9% of total reported homicide deaths (*Fig. 5*).

- There were 10 suspected family violence related deaths or about 6% of total reported homicide deaths (Fig. 5).
- There were 13 deaths identified as police-involved (Table 5), accounting for 8% of reported deaths classified as a homicide (Fig. 6).

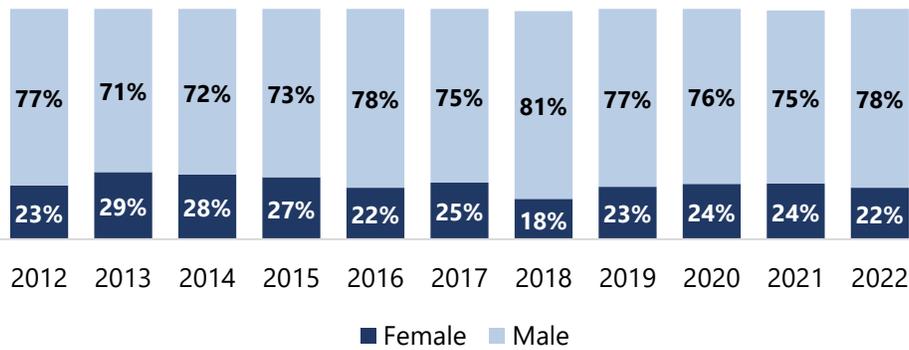


**Fig. 1.** Homicide Deaths and Rate per 100,000 Population, 2012-2022<sup>[1]</sup>

Overall, the average annual number of homicide deaths was 110. The average annual rate was 2.2 deaths per 100,000 population. In 2022, there were 170 suspected homicide deaths reported in B.C., equating to a rate of 3.2 deaths per 100,000 population.

**Table 1. Homicide Deaths by Sex, 2012-2022**

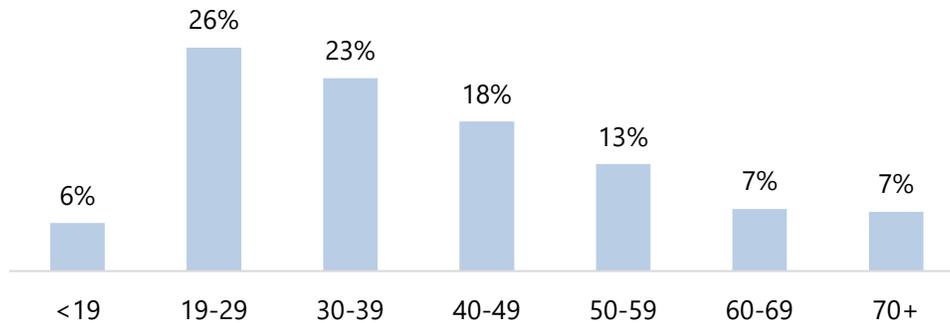
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Female	18	25	28	29	23	31	17	23	25	33	38
Male	59	61	72	79	80	95	79	78	79	103	132
Not Available	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>170</b>



**Fig. 2.** Homicide Deaths by Sex as % of Total, 2012-2022

Males accounted for 76% of deaths. Since 2018, there has been upward trend in the number of female and male homicide deaths, with both showing a similar increase. The proportion of male to female homicide deaths have remained steady from 2012-2022.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<19	1	5	10	8	3	13	6	5	4	7	7
19-29	22	26	19	27	31	37	28	19	24	45	42
30-39	19	13	22	21	20	24	28	30	24	29	46
40-49	17	23	11	23	16	19	15	18	20	23	29
50-59	8	10	18	14	19	14	9	6	17	15	23
60-69	1	5	14	7	9	10	4	9	10	9	11
70+	9	4	6	8	5	9	6	13	5	8	12
Not Available	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>170</b>

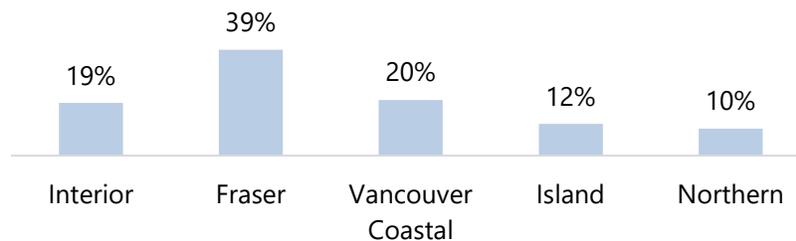


**Fig. 3.** Homicide Deaths by Age Group as % of Total, 2012-2022

From 2012-2022, about 49% of decedents were aged 19-39. The largest increases were seen in the 30-39 age group (29 deaths in 2021 to 46 deaths in 2022) and the 50-59 age group (15 deaths in 2021 to 23 deaths in 2022).

**Table 3. Homicide Deaths by Health Authority of Injury, 2012-2022<sup>[2,3]</sup>**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Interior	10	18	15	16	19	25	19	27	21	26	37
Fraser	38	41	44	35	46	43	35	37	35	46	69
Vancouver Coastal	14	10	19	28	19	33	25	18	26	28	27
Island	5	8	10	16	9	14	10	8	11	24	25
Northern	10	9	12	13	10	11	8	11	11	13	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>170</b>



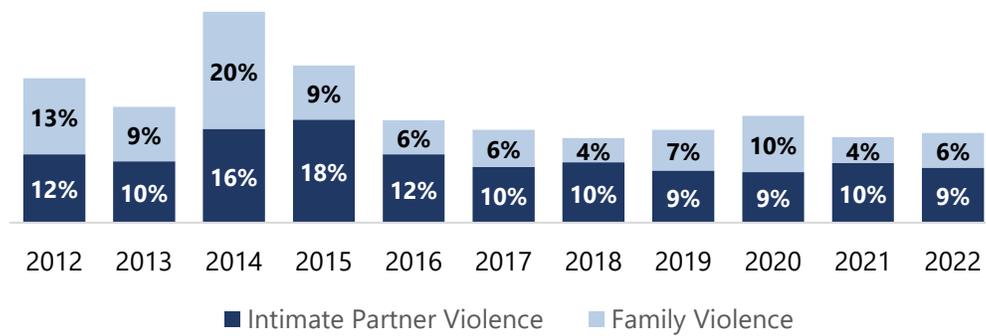
**Fig. 4.** Homicide Deaths by Health Authority of Injury as % of Total, 2012-2022

From 2012-2022, 39% of homicide deaths occurred in the Fraser Health Authority region, followed by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority region (20%). In 2022, Fraser Health and Interior Health Authority experienced the highest number of homicide deaths (69 and 37 deaths, respectively) with the greatest increase from 2021 (46 and 26 deaths, respectively).

**Table 4. Number of Intimate Partner Violence Related Homicides, 2012-2022<sup>[4]</sup>**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Intimate Partner Violence	9	9	16	19	12	12	10	9	9	14	16
Familial Violence	10	8	20	10	6	8	4	7	10	6	10

From 2012-2022, there were 135 intimate partner violence-related and 99 family violence-related homicide deaths.



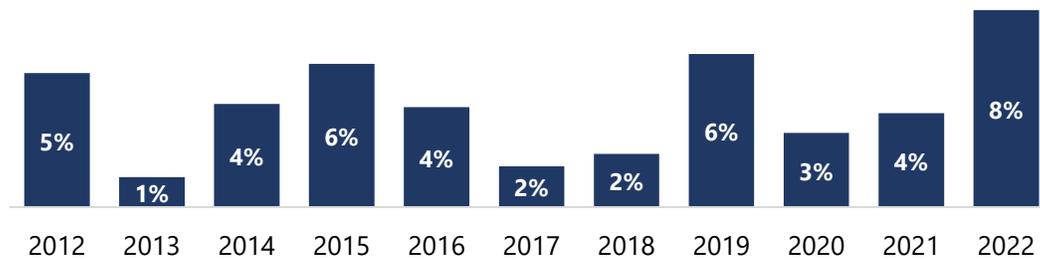
**Fig. 5. IPV & FV Related Deaths as % of Total Homicides, 2012-2022<sup>[4]</sup>**

In 2022, suspected intimate partner-related homicide deaths accounted for 9% of total reported homicide deaths. Suspected family violence-related homicide deaths were 6% of total reported homicide deaths.

**Table 5. Number of Police-Involved Homicides, 2012-2022<sup>[4]</sup>**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Police-Involved	4	1	4	6	4	2	2	6	3	5	13

From 2012-2022, there were 50 police-involved deaths classified as homicide.



**Fig. 6.** Police-Involved Deaths as % of Total Homicides, 2012-2022<sup>[4]</sup>

In 2022, there were 13 police-involved deaths, accounting for 8% of reported deaths classified as a homicide.

#### Notes

1. Population estimates were taken from <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/people-population-community/population/population-estimates>
2. Health Region breakdowns can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/geographic-data-services/land-use/administrative-boundaries/health-boundaries>
3. Health authority is derived from injury township. Death township is used in cases of unknown or out-of-province injury township.

#### Definitions:

- **Homicide** is defined as a death due to injury intentionally inflicted by action of another person. Homicide is a neutral term that does not imply fault or blame.
- **Intimate partner violence (IPV)** is defined as violence inflicted by a current or former spouse, boy or girlfriend, or other romantic partner of the victim. An intimate partner relationship includes opposite- and same-sex relationships, regardless of whether the victim and perpetrator were legally married or resided together at the time of the incident or at any time previously. A child, other family member, or unrelated person who died in an incident targeting the perpetrator's current or former intimate partner.
- **Family violence (FV)** is defined as violence inflicted by a person who is related to the victim through current or past marriage, adoption, or legal guardianship, excluding an intimate partner. An unrelated person killed in an incident targeting a family member is also considered a victim of FV.