

## INTRODUCTION

Each year since 2007, Policing and Security Branch (PSB) has collected summary data from each police agency in BC on the number of police firearm discharge incidents, including whether the discharge resulted in injury or death. This report presents a 10-year summary of that data.

The discharge data presented in this document only includes operational firearm discharge incidents involving a person. Firearm discharges involving animals (for humanitarian or self-defence reasons) and accidental firearm discharges in a non-operational context (e.g. while cleaning a gun) were excluded from analysis. For consistency and to avoid double counting, PSB has attempted to ensure that incident counts are attributed to the police agency that was in command of the incident during which a firearm discharge occurred. In some cases, such as incidents involving seconded police officers, integrated Emergency Response Team callouts or requests for assistance from other police agencies, this may be a different police agency to where the involved officer is employed. An incident can include more than one discharge by the same officer or different officers. This report only includes injuries and deaths caused by a police firearm.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- From 2007 to 2016, the number of police firearm discharge incidents reported to PSB per year ranged from a low of nine to a high of 24, for an average of 13 incidents per year (see Table 1).
- From 2007 to 2016, there was an average of four deaths per year (range of zero to eight), and an average of four persons injured per year by police firearm discharges (see Figure 1).
- In 2016, there were nine police firearm discharge incidents in BC reported to PSB, three less than in 2015. Also in 2016, four people died and five people were injured as a result of police gunshot wounds; this was three less deaths and one more injury than in 2015.
- Overall, there is no clear trend in police firearm discharges, when considered in isolation or when compared to trends in other data available to PSB about the policing environment in BC. The number of discharges has fluctuated, increasing in some years while decreasing in others. Furthermore, because the number of incidents each year is relatively small, the fluctuations are quite pronounced when expressed as percentage increases or decreases.

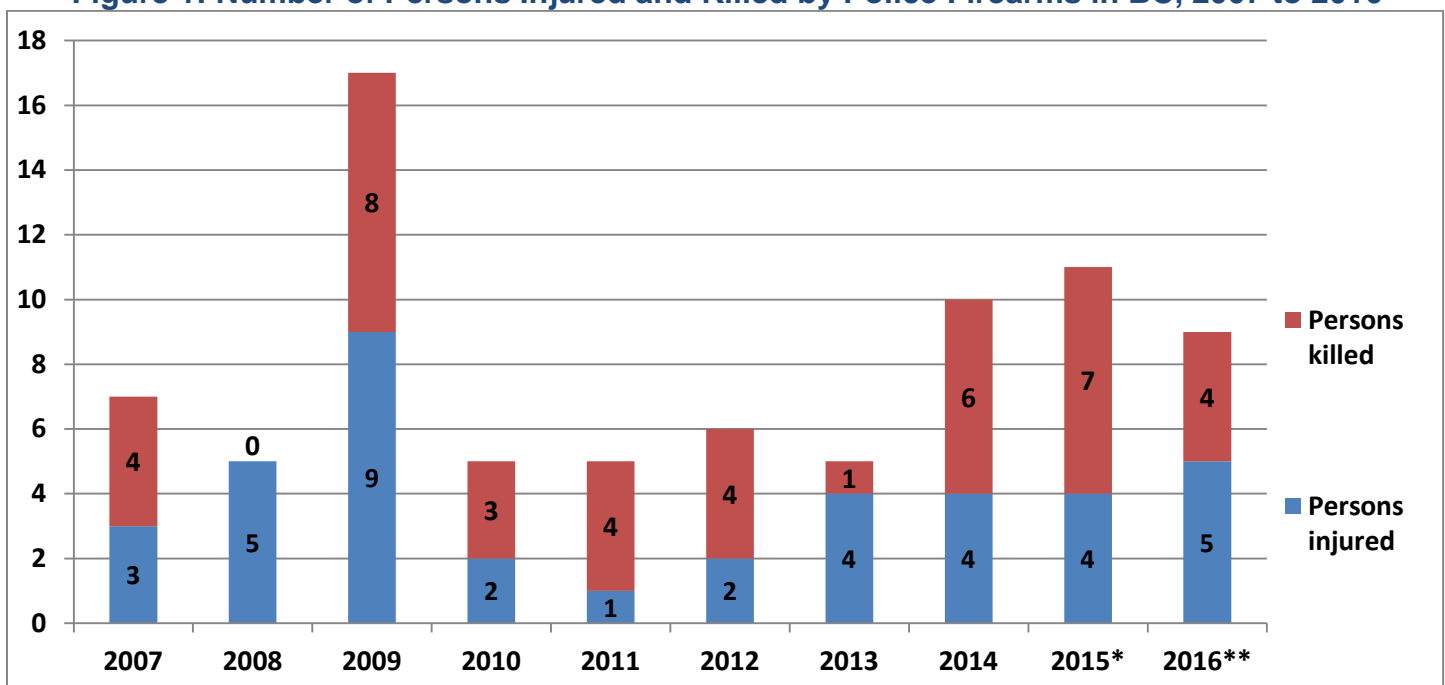
# Police Firearm Discharges, 2007–2016

**Table 1: Police Firearm Discharge Incidents in an Operational Setting by Agency, 2007 to 2016**

POLICE AGENCY*															
	AB	CS	DE	NE	NW	OB	PM	SA	STP	TP	VA	VI	WV	RCMP	BC Total
2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	11	15
2008	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	13
2009	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	19	24
2010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	9
2011	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	10
2012	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	10
2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	10
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	9	16
2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	11	12
2016	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	9

\*Abbotsford Police Department (AB), Central Saanich Police Service (CS), Delta Police Department (DE), Nelson Police Department (NE), New Westminster Police Department (NW), Oak Bay Police Department (OB), Port Moody Police Department (PM), Saanich Police Department (SA), Stl'at'imx Tribal Police Service (STP), Metro Vancouver Transit Police (TP), Vancouver Police Department (VA), Victoria Police Department (VI), and the West Vancouver Police Department (WV).  
**Note:** Counts are attributed to the agency that was in command of the officer(s) who discharged the firearm(s) at the time of the incident, regardless of which agency the member(s) may have been seconded from (e.g. integrated Emergency Response Teams).

**Figure 1: Number of Persons Injured and Killed by Police Firearms in BC, 2007 to 2016**



**Note:** This data only includes injuries and deaths caused by a police firearm.

\*2015 persons-killed figure includes two people who died after being shot by police, who had also sustained other life-threatening injuries that were not caused by a police firearm.

\*\*2016 figure includes one incident counted as an injury where a subject was shot by police, and later died from a different injury.