

33% INCREASE IN SHOOTINGS THIS YEAR: DURHAM POLICE

Durham Police said there has been a 33 per cent increase in shootings this year, describing it as a disturbing trend that significantly impacts our entire community.

"We want to assure the community that each incident is taken seriously, and we are committed to holding those responsible accountable. We encourage the public to report any suspicious activity to the police," said a statement announcing shootings in Uxbridge.

Since then, there has been a double shooting in Ajax, which police say could be linked to an ongoing Greater Toronto Area (GTA) tow truck war.

In November, Durham Police reported a few incidents when shots were actually fired. There were other reports of firearms being seized or used in public.

Even though the police are only claiming 33% the numbers may be much higher. Weapon related incidents have truly surge.

Here are just a few:

Double shooting in Ajax may be linked to GTA tow truck war.

Two wanted for stealing and using elderly victim's bank cards.

Three guns, drugs found in raid on suspected human trafficker.

Pickering has two teens arrested due to possession of drugs and guns.

Shots Fired into Whitby Residence.

The reports of break and

enter. Assaults, thefts in many cases involve fire arms that have not been discharged.

It appears that gun and knife related crimes have way surpassed 33%.

Murder rate drops in 2023, reversing decade-long worsening trend

26% of victims were Indigenous. 2023 had fewer spousal murders with big provincial variation. Crime gangs suspected in 22% of murders.

After nine years of mostly increases, Canada's murder rate fell dramatically in 2023, according to data released by Statistics Canada. The rate fell in nine of ten provinces.

Statistics Canada reports 778 people were victims of murder in 2023. Of these, 26 per cent were Indigenous.

Canada's 2023 homicide rate of 1.94 murders per 100,000 population was down from 2.27 per 100,000 in 2022. However it remains above a recent low of 1.46 per 100,000 in 2013 that came after more than three decades of declines.

The homicide rate among Indigenous people was 9.31 per 100,000. Among other racialized people, the homicide rate was 1.98 per 100,000, only slightly different than the rate of 1.94 among all Canadians.

Murder rates highest in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In 2023, there continued to be

big variation in provincial murder rates.

Spousal murders low in Quebec, high in Saskatchewan

In 2023, there were 49 killings in which the accused had been in a spousal relationship with the victim, down from 71 in 2022. In 82 per cent of spousal homicides the accused murderer was a husband or ex-husband, legally or in common law.

In most provinces, the share of the nation's spousal murders was similar to its population share. However, though 22 per cent of Canada's population resides in Quebec, it recorded only 14 per cent of Canada's spousal murders. Saskatchewan had 12 per cent of spousal murders though the province only has three per cent of Canada's population.

22% suspected or linked to organize crime or street gangs.

Organized crime and street gangs play a large role in murders. Last year, 171 of the 778 murder victims were suspected or linked to organized crime or street gangs by police.

Though the percentage of murders suspected or linked to crime gangs is slightly down from 25 per cent in 2017, it's significantly higher than between 2010 and 2015, when crime gangs were suspected or linked to 16 or 17 per cent of murders.

Many are attributing the

increase in crime to the poor economy.

There has also been an increase in organized crime in areas such as human trafficking, drugs, guns, knives and auto thefts.

The poor economy has also seen an increase in the homeless population. This bringing up petty crimes in small and

large municipalities. Some police services have been criticized as the call attendance has been as much as 6 hours.

This is unacceptable and people are being left to fend for themselves. The compounded pressure of mental health has driven petty crime through the roof to the point

that many police agencies barely report them.

Police services across Canada are noticing a huge number on police officers mental burn outs.

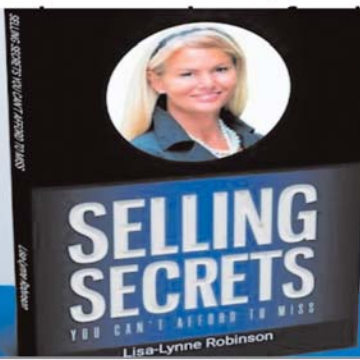
Police unions are having to deal with restrictive budgets and many of the good officers retiring early from the force due to the overwhelming stress.

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