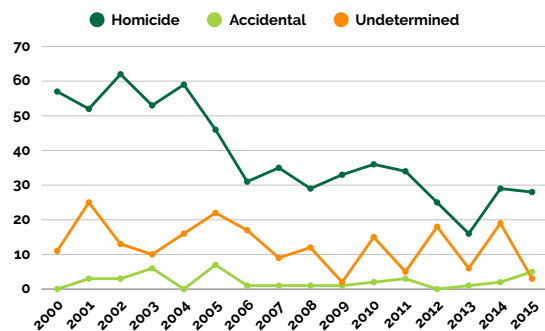
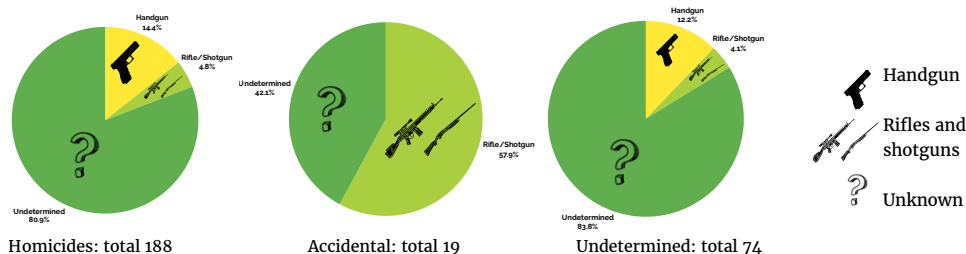


Evolution of homicides and accidents with firearms (2000-2015)¹



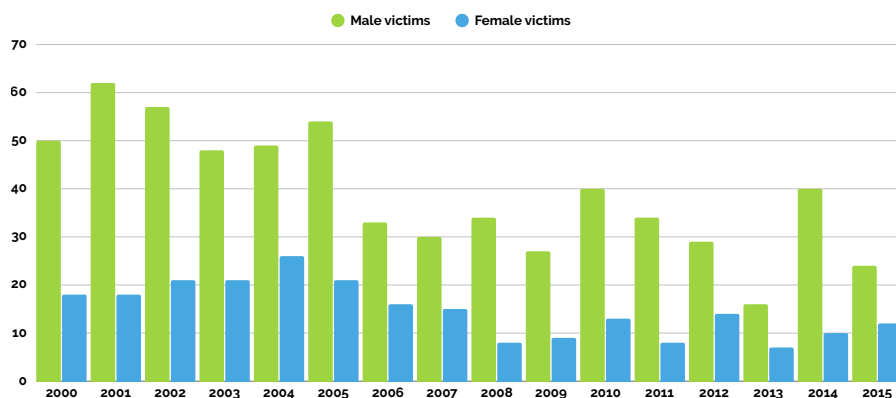
Types of Firearms Used in Fatal Incidents 2000-2015



Homicide firearm victims: 2000-2015

based on medical data⁸

Lethal Gun Violence by Gender



Mass Shootings since 2000²

Liège, December 2011³⁻⁴



Murder-Suicide Attack
FN FAL assault rifle, Smith and Wesson 41 Magnum revolver
Perpetrator committed suicide

Brussels, May 2014⁵



Terrorism-related shooting
Spanish-made Llama revolver 38 special and a Zavasta M70 AB (762x39mm), which is a Kalashnikov type assault rifle
Perpetrator arrested

Liège, May 2018⁶⁻⁷



Jihadi terrorist attack
N/A, police firearm
Perpetrator was shot dead by police forces



Legend



Perpetrators of gun crime

Perpetrators of gun crime data unavailable

1. Data acquired from "World Health Organization Mortality Database", last accessed on 2 May 2020.
2. Literature offers no generally accepted definition of a "public mass shooting". For data collection purposes Sarah Watson's definition will be basis of categorisation for a mass shooting. However, the scope will be further widened to include multiple perpetrators, "shootings that occur in the public and/or semi-public space, perpetrated by one offender and resulting in three or more randomly selected victims, with at least one fatality. The term victim refers to those fatally shot and those injured; however, it does not include the perpetrator". Watson, S., (2022), *Mass shootings, fatality thresholds and defining by numbers: Political and social consequences*, Criminology & Criminal Justice' vol. 1 no. 19, pg. 4.
3. Duquet, N. et. al., *Armed To Kill A comprehensive analysis of the guns used in public mass shootings in Europe between 2000 and 2018*, Flemish Peace Institute, pg. 21-23, (2019).
4. The Guardian, *Five dead in Liège attack including 'gun freak'*, (December 2011).
5. Duquet, N. et. al., *Armed To Kill A comprehensive analysis of the guns used in public mass shootings in Europe between 2000 and 2018*, Flemish Peace Institute, pg.32-34, (2019).

6. BBC News, *Liège shooting: Two police officers and civilian dead in Belgium*, (May 2018).
7. The Guardian, *Belgium shooting: man kills passerby and two police officers in Liège*, (May 2018).
8. Data acquired from "World Health Organization Mortality Database", last accessed on 2 May 2020.

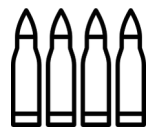


Seizures 2015-2019⁹



19,027

Firearms seized



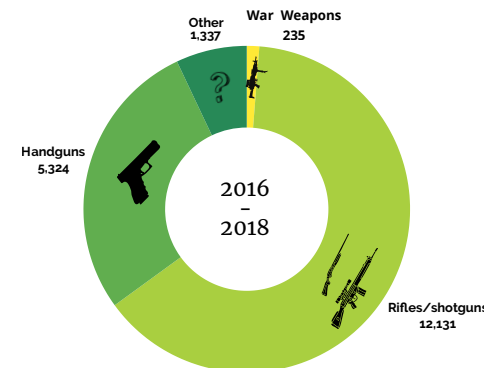
Rounds of ammunition data not available



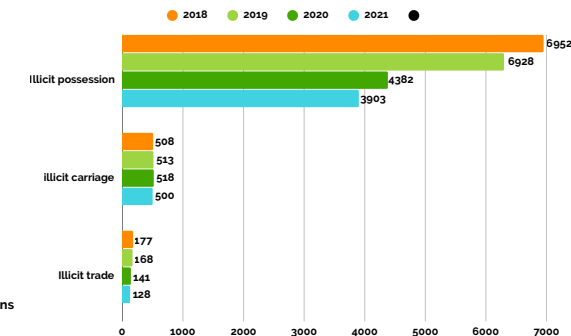
Parts and components data not available

Seizures

Types of firearms seized¹⁰



Context of seizures 2018, 2019, 2020 & 2021¹¹



Trafficking



Due to the various methods of firearms trafficking in Belgium, the country represents a source, destination, and transit area of illicit arms trade. The two main entry points for firearms smuggling are Western Balkans and Eastern Europe, either through land via Slovenia/Hungary or the sea through Italy.¹² The Antwerp harbor is also a focal entry point, where big amounts of narcotics are accompanied by small amounts of firearms. However, based on customs data for 2014-2017, Antwerp is used more for smuggling drugs rather than guns.¹³



In addition to smuggling, conversion and reactivation are also popular methods of firearms trafficking. Illicit reactivation is a common modus operandi in Belgium to the extent that, according to the media, there are small businesses that specialize in such an activity.¹⁴ Firearm conversion presented an increase after 2000s. Although for years the converted guns encountered in Belgium were Italian Tanfoglio alarm pistols, currently alarm and gas pistols manufactured in Turkey are more popular.¹⁵

Possession



Although the intelligence picture on the illegal firearm possessions in Belgium is not very clear, researchers have argued that the number of illegally held guns is high, with the Belgian government estimating that in 2006 up to 900,000 weapons were illicitly possessed.¹⁶



According to the 2020 UNODC report on Firearms trafficking, among the European countries that took part in the study, Belgium had the seventh-highest number of seized weapons.¹⁷



Acquiring a comprehensive view of illegal firearms holdings in Belgium becomes even more challenging as in many cases the police registers incidents of firearm trafficking as illegal possession. The reason for that is the higher level of burden of proof for trafficking than that for illicit possession.¹⁸

9. Data acquired from "Data UNODC Firearms Trafficking database", last accessed on 26 September 2023.

10. Ibid.

11. Police fédérale, *Statistiques policières de criminalité 2000-2022*: <https://www.stat.policiefederale.be>, last accessed on 27 September 2023.

12. Calomme, G., *Written question n°2111 on 13 March 2018 to Minister of Finances I Van Overtveldt, Inbeslagname van wapens door de douanediens*, Belgian Chamber of Representatives, (2018).

13. Duquet, N & Goris, K., *The illicit gun market in Belgium: A lethal cocktail of criminal supply and terrorist demand*, in N Duquet (ed), *Triggering Terror: Illicit Gun Markets and Firearms Acquisition of Terrorist Networks in Europe*, Flemish Peace Institute, (2019).

14. De Groot, P., *Written question 5-9929 on 24 September 2013 to Minister of Justice A. Turtelboom, Gas-en alarmwapens, Ombouw tot illegale wapens*, Belgian Senate, (2013).

15. Dhondt, C., *Illegale wapenzwendeel vanuit het voormalige Oostblok*, Presentation 'Illegaal wapenbezit in België', (2017).

16. Duquet, N & Goris, K., *The illicit gun market in Belgium: A lethal cocktail of criminal supply and terrorist demand*, in Duquet, N. (ed), *Triggering Terror: Illicit Gun Markets and Firearms Acquisition of Terrorist Networks in Europe*, Flemish Peace Institute, (2018).

17. UNODC, *Global Study on Firearms Trafficking 2020*, United Nations publication, Annex, 9, (2020).

18. de Labbey, Q, Auweele, D. V., & Duquet, N., *Firearm Trafficking and Gun Violence in Belgium*, in Duquet, N. (ed), *Project TARGET: Targeting gun violence and trafficking in Europe*, Flemish Peace Institute, (2022).