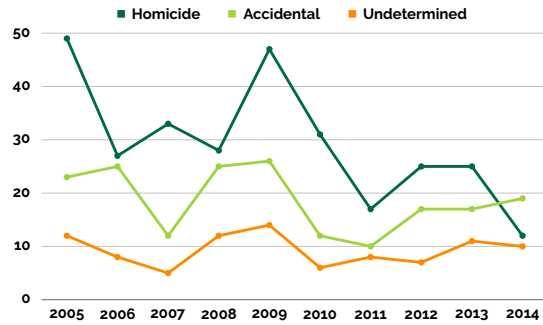
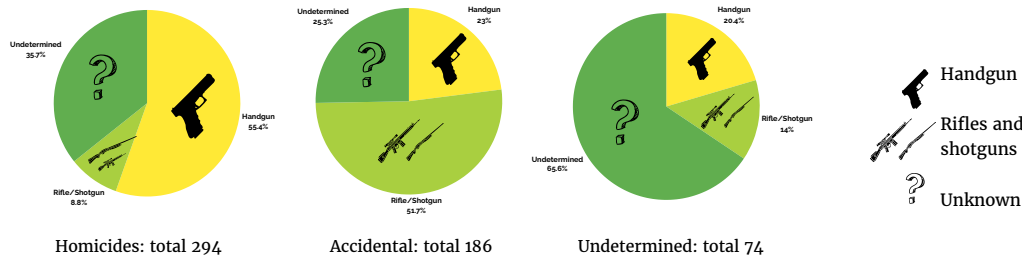


Evolution of homicides and accidents with firearms (2005-2014)¹



Types of Firearms Used in Fatal Incidents 2005-2014



Mass Shootings since 2000²

Sofia, July 2004³



Southern Black Sea Coast, June 2016⁴



Novi Iskar, December 2017⁵



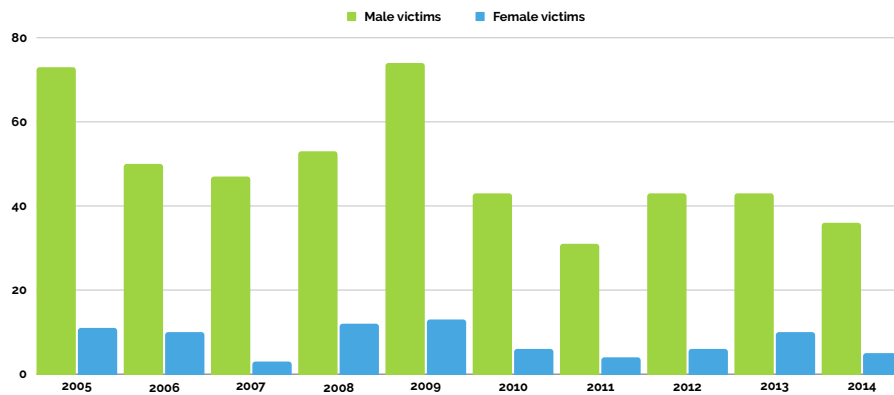
Sofia, May 2017⁶



Homicide firearm victims: 2005-2014

based on medical data⁸

Lethal Gun Violence by Gender



Perpetrators of gun crime

Perpetrators of gun crime data unavailable

1. Data acquired from "World Health Organization, Detailed Mortality Database": https://www.who.int/healthinfo/mortality_data/en/, 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, p. 4.
3. South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, *Taming the Arsenal – Small Arms and Light Weapons in Bulgaria*, pg. 18, (2005).

4. Blitz, 3 години след историчното убийство в Кюлата на узакване в Нови Искар мистеријата остана, (January 2021).

5. Balkan Insight, *Five Lord Shot at Bulgarian Beach Resort*, (June 2016).

6. DarkNews, *Двама убити и едни тешко ранени при стрелба в София*, (May 2017).

7. Map/locations of mass shootings in Bulgaria.

8. Data acquired from "World Health Organization, Detailed Mortality Database": https://www.who.int/healthinfo/mortality_data/en/, last accessed on 2 May 2020.

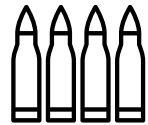


Seizures 2019-2020⁹



104

Firearms seized



73

Rounds of ammunition seized

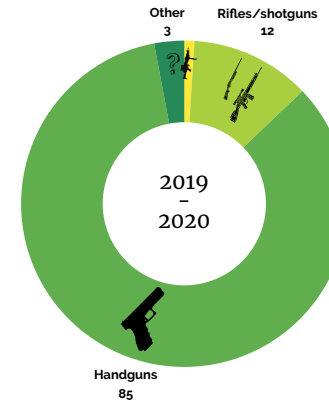


191

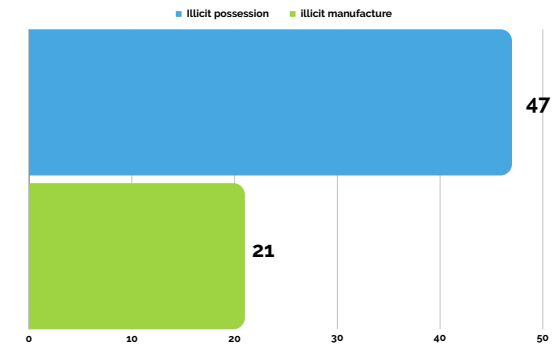
Parts and components seized

Seizures

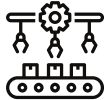
Types of firearms seized¹⁰



Context of seizures 2020¹¹



Trafficking



In the years following the fall of communism in Bulgaria, the country aiming to control the substantial firearm production, that was no longer profitable, started exporting weapons to the Middle East and North Africa. After 2007, when the country became an EU Member State, it terminated its firearms exporting activity with the MENA. According to reports, the remaining firearms were distributed by the factories to local OCGs.¹²



Nowadays, Bulgaria functions as a destination and transit country for Turkish gas pistols and Flobert-calibre firearms. These blank-firing weapons are trafficked from Turkey through Bulgaria to Northern and Western Europe, where they are usually converted into live-firing firearms.¹³



What makes Bulgaria a major hotspot for gun trafficking is the open market of blank-firing weapons that are sold legally, at low prices with the only prerequisite the registration of the buyer in the gun shop's arms register.¹⁴

Possession



The Small Arms Survey estimates that, as of 2017, there are 590,000 firearms held by civilians in Bulgaria. Of those in circulation, 345,733 are registered, while the remaining 244,267 are considered unregistered.¹⁵



The number of registered firearms in Bulgaria is high because licensed gun owners can possess as many guns as they want and any quantity of ammunition.¹⁶

⁹ Data acquired from "Data UNODC Firearms Trafficking database": <https://dataunodc.un.org/dp-firearms-arms-seized>, last accessed on 26 September 2023.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Duquet, N. & Vanden Auweele, D., *Project TARGET: Targeting gun violence and trafficking in Europe*, Brussels, Flemish Peace Institute, pg. 151, (2022).

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ UNODC, *Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts, Components and Ammunition to, from and across the European Union, Regional Analysis Report*, pg. 134, (2020).

¹⁵ Krap, A., *Estimating Global Civilian-held Firearms Numbers (Annexe)*, Small Arms Survey, (2018)

https://web.archive.org/web/20180629102233/http://www.smallarmsurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/Weapons_and_Markets/Tools/Firearms_holdings/SAS-BP-Civilian-held-firearms-annexe.pdf, last accessed on 6 November 2023.

¹⁶ National Assembly of Bulgaria, "General Dispositions", *Law on the Control of Explosives, Firearms and Ammunitions, Chapter 1*, (2000).