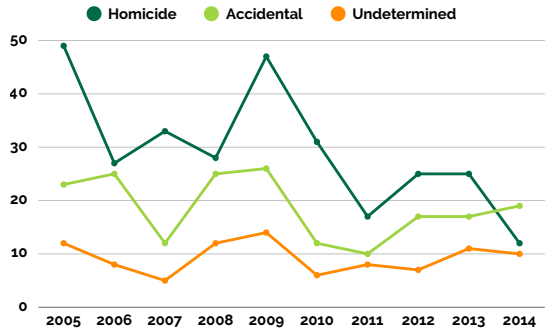
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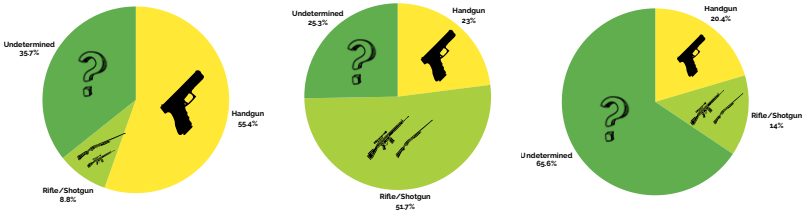
Key Data Gun Violence
Bulgaria 2023 (1/2)

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



Types of Firearms Used in Fatal Incidents 2005-2014



Homicides: total 294 | Accidental: total 186 | Undetermined: total 74

Mass Shootings since 2000 [2]

Sofia, July 2004 [3]

Drug related shooting
Kalashnikov-Type Rifle
Perpetrators arrested

Southern Black Sea Coast, June 2016 [4]
near the town of Nessebar

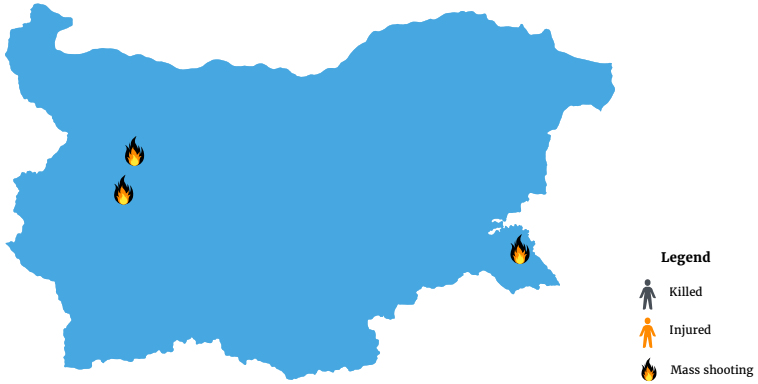
Rival gangs shooting
Pistols
Perpetrators arrested

Novi Iskar, December 2017 [5]

Emotional and financial motive
Beretta pistol
Perpetrator committed suicide

Sofia, May 2017 [6]

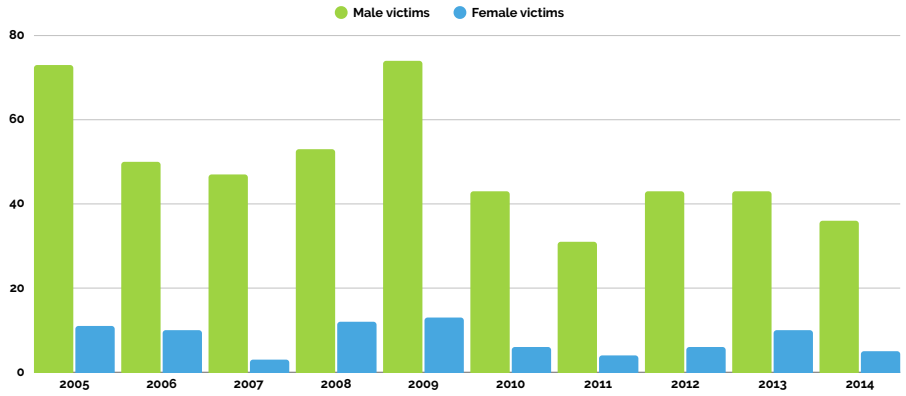
Commercial dispute
9mm Beretta Pistol
Perpetrator surrendered



Homicide firearm victims: 2005-2014

based on medical data [7]

Lethal Gun Violence by Gender



Perpetrators of gun crime

Perpetrators of gun crime data unavailable

Published: December 2023

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, 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 шесторното убийство в Къщата на ужасите в Нови Искър мистерията остава, (January 2021).
5. Balkan Insight, Drug Lord Shot at Bulgarian Beach Resort, (June 2016).
6. DarikNews, Двама убити и един тежко ранен при стрелба в София, (May 2017).
7. Data acquired from "World Health Organization Mortality Database", last accessed on 2 May 2020.

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Seizures 2019-2020 [8]

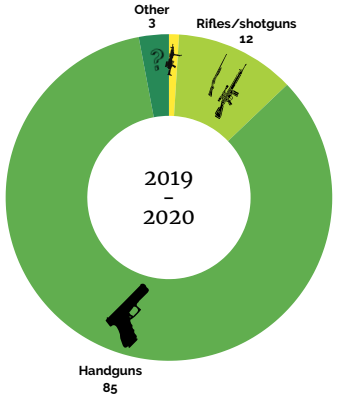
104
Firearms seized

73
Rounds of ammunition seized

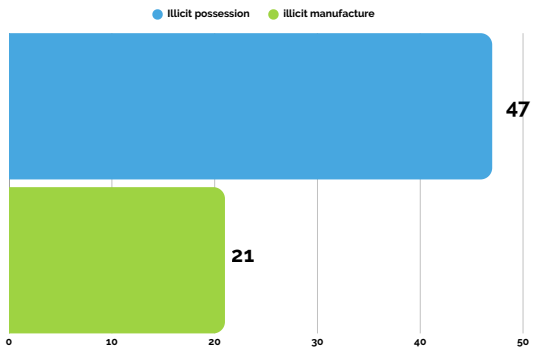
191
Parts and components seized

Seizures

Types of firearms seized [9]



Context of seizures 2020 [10]



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. [11]

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. [12]

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. [13]

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. [14]

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. [15]

Published: December 2023

8. Data acquired from "Data UNODC Firearms Trafficking database", last accessed on 26 September 2023.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Duquet, N. & Vanden Auweele, D., Project TARGET: Targeting gun violence and trafficking in Europe, Brussels, Flemish Peace Institute, pg. 151, (2022).
12. Ibid.
13. UNODC, Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts, Components and Ammunition to, from and across the European Union, Regional Analysis Report, pg. 134, (2020).
14. Krap, A., Estimating Global Civilian-held Firearms Numbers (Annexe), Small Arms Survey, (2018); Karp, A., Estimating Global Civilian-held Firearms Numbers (Report), Small Arms Survey, (2018).
15. National Assembly of Bulgaria,'General Dispositions', Law on the Control of Explosives, Firearms and Ammunitions, Chapter 1, (2000).

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