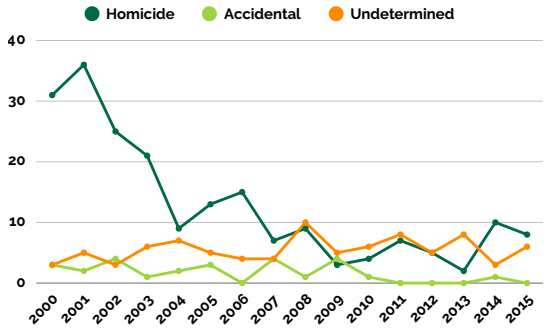
GUNVIOLENCE.EU
Online knowledge platform by Project Insight

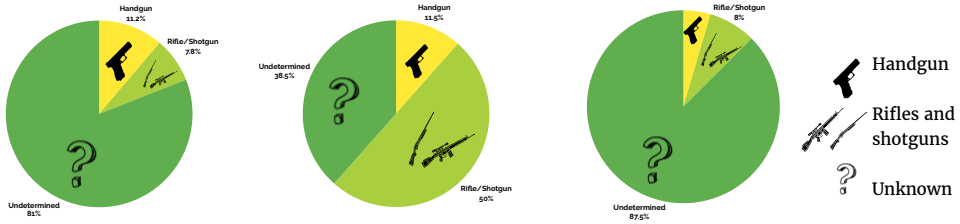
Key Data Gun Violence
Latvia 2023 (1/2)

Project Insight is funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund — Police and coordinated by the Flemish Peace Institute.
The content of this publication represents the views of the authors only and is his/her sole responsibility.
The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

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



Types of Firearms Used in Fatal Incidents 2000-2015



Homicides: total 205 | Accidental: total 26 | Undetermined: total 88

Mass Shootings since 2000 [2]

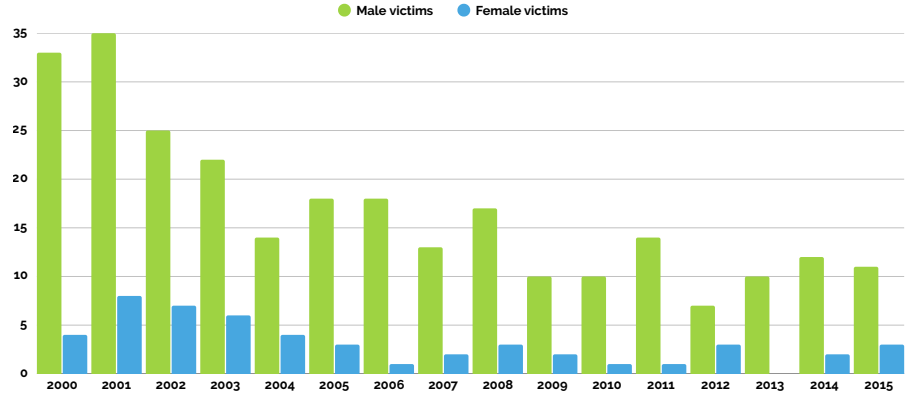


No data available on mass shootings in Latvia since 2000

Homicide firearm victims: 2000-2015

based on medical data [3]

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 18 October 2022.
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. Data acquired from "World Health Organization Mortality Database", last accessed on 2 May 2020.

GUNVIOLENCE.EU
Online knowledge platform by Project Insight

Key Data Gun Violence
Latvia 2023 (2/2)

Project Insight is funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund — Police and coordinated by the Flemish Peace Institute.
The content of this publication represents the views of the authors only and is his/her sole responsibility.
The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

Seizures [4]

663

Firearms seized **(2010-2019)**

27,388

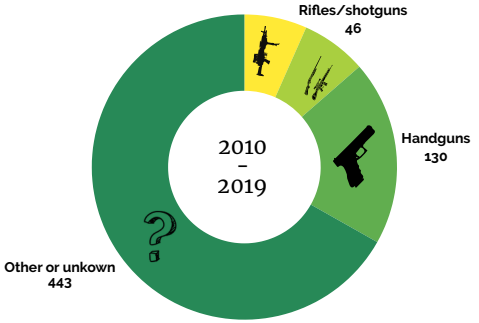
Rounds of ammunition seized **(2018-2019)**

1,581

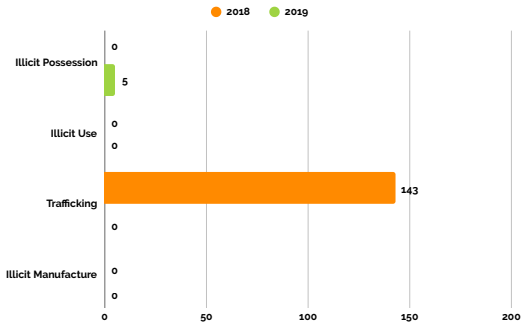
Parts and components seized **(2018-2019)**

Seizures [5]

Types of firearms seized



Context of seizures 2018-2019



Trafficking

Latvia is primarily a transit country for illegal firearms. For neighbouring countries, Lithuania and Estonia, it also acts as an origin country. [6]

Latvia is a primary country for the purchase of gas and alarm pistols (often the Zoraki brand) and their conversion. Once converted they are trafficked to other countries. [7]

Firearm collectors and enthusiasts have been involved in illicit trafficking of firearms between Latvia and Lithuania. This occurs when Latvian black-dug firearms have been smuggled to Lithuania. [8]

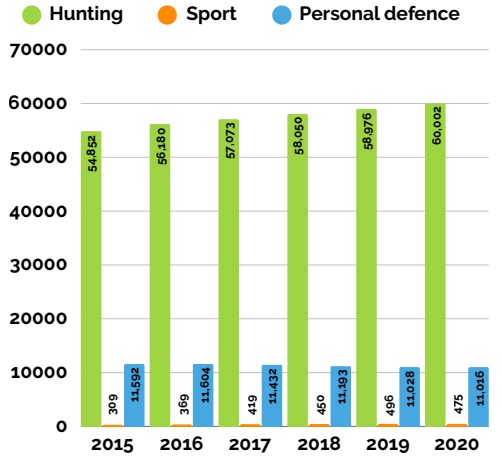
Possession

Many illegal firearms are acquired through 'black digging', the illegal excavation and possession of firearms, often from old battlefield sites and the surrounding environment. [9]

Despite the number of firearm's licences having decreased (37,581 - 32,463) from 2003 until 2020, the total number of civilian holdings of registered firearms has incrementally increased (55,540 -71,526) within the same time period. [10 - 12]

The non-regularisation of firearms is cause for concern. However, owing to its smaller population size or low illicit firearms possession rate, it is reasonable to assume that Latvia's contribution to the overall number of illegal firearms in Europe may be less significant than others. [13]

Type of license granted [14- 16]



Published: December 2023

4. Data acquired from "Data UNODC Firearms Trafficking database", last accessed on 15 February 2023.
5. Ibid.
6. Verbal communication with the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board, 1st November 2019.
7. Duquet, N. & Vanden Auweele, D., Project TARGET: Targeting gun violence and trafficking in Europe, Brussels, Flemish Peace Institute, pg. 135, (2022).
8. Written communication by Arquebus Solutions with a representative of the Lithuanian police in the frame of project DIVERT, (2019).
9. Dressler, M., Duquet, N. & Eckelmann J., Project DIVERT: Forgotten weapons? Non-regularised firearms in the European Union, Brussels, Flemish Peace Institute, pg. 35, (2021).
10. Lekšlietu Ministrijas Informācijas Centrs, Pārskats par ieroču īpašniekiem (fiziskām personām) un to īpašumā esošajiem ieročiem, (2016-2020).
11. Lekšlietu Ministrijas Informācijas Centrs, Pārskats par ieroču īpašniekiem (fiziskām personām) un to īpašumā esošajiem ieročiem, (2015).
12. Latvia., Statistics on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons Registered in Latvia, National Report of Latvia on its Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA); Article 4, pg. 8., (2004).
13. Dressler, M., Duquet, N. & Eckelmann J., Project DIVERT: Forgotten weapons? Non-regularised firearms in the European Union, Brussels, Flemish Peace Institute, pg. 36, (2021).
14. Lekšlietu Ministrijas Informācijas Centrs, Pārskats par ieroču īpašniekiem (fiziskām personām) un to īpašumā esošajiem ieročiem, (2016-2020).
15. Lekšlietu Ministrijas Informācijas Centrs, Pārskats par ieroču īpašniekiem (fiziskām personām) un to īpašumā esošajiem ieročiem, (2015).
16. Latvia., Statistics on Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons Registered in Latvia, National Report of Latvia on its Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA); Article 4, pg. 8., (2004).

flemish peaceinstitute