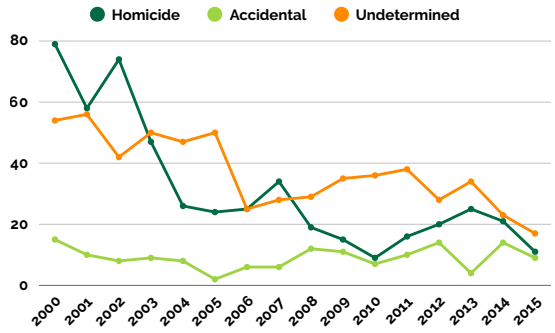
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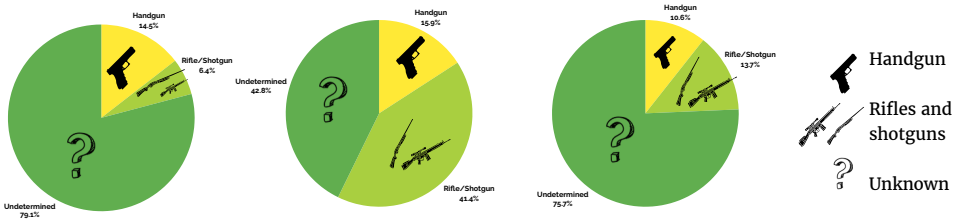
Key Data Gun Violence
Poland 2023 (1/2)

Project Insight is funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund — Police and coordinated by the Flemish Peace Institute.
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Evolution of homicides and accidents with firearms (2000-2015)[1]



Types of Firearms Used in Fatal Incidents 2000-2015



Homicides: total 503 | Accidental: total 145 | Undetermined: total 592

Mass Shootings since 2000[2]



No data available on mass shootings in Poland since 2000

Homicide firearm victims: 2000-2015

based on medical data[3]

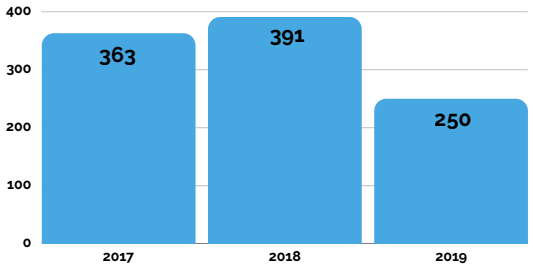
Lethal Gun Violence by Gender



Criminal involvement in illicit firearms trafficking

Data regarding organised crime[4]

Number of firearms possessed by OCGs that were seized by the Central Bureau Investigation:



Between 2014 and 2019 the Central Bureau of Investigation seized a total of 2,100 firearms possesed by organised criminal groups.

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, pg. 4.
3. Data acquired from "World Health Organization Mortality Database", last accessed on 2 May 2020.
4. Centralne Biuro Śledcze Policji, Sprawozdanie z działalności Centralnego Biura Śledczego Policji za 2017, 2018, 2019 rok (w ujęciu statystycznym), last accessed on 9 October 2023.

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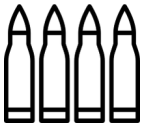
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Seizures 2020 [5]



1,070

Firearms seized



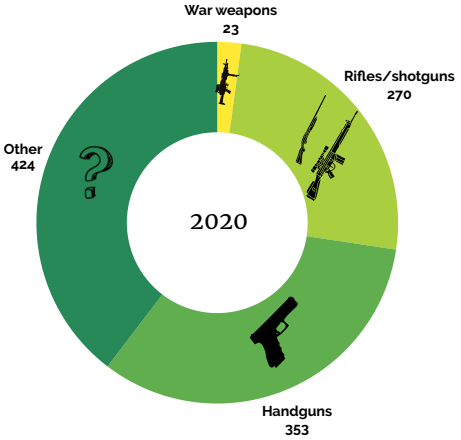
Rounds of ammunition data not available



Parts and components data not available

Seizures [6]

Types of firearms seized



Trafficking



Due to its geographical position, Poland represents both a destination and a transit country for the illicit trafficking of firearms. However, the large amounts of weapons and explosives used during the Second World War that are still available and can either be restored or even converted into functional firearms make Poland a country of origin, as well. [7]



The heightened demand for weapons and ammunition caused by the war in Ukraine has intensified firearms trafficking in Poland.[8] The so-called 'southerly direction' is the most common route of arms and ammunition smuggling into the country. Illegal arms are smuggled from Czech Republic and Slovakia, which are leading countries of origin for illicit firearms, through Poland into Ukraine and Russia. [9]



After the collapse of Communism and the increase of organized crime, the demand for guns and explosives grew as competing OCGs emerged. Today, the proliferation of firearms due to the war in Ukraine is an important source of guns for criminals within Poland, boosting the domestic illicit trade even more. [10]

Possession



In the Polish legal system, the right to possess firearms is provided by the Weapons and Munitions Act of 21 May 1999, which has been amended multiple times. The national legislative framework on weapons possession is restrictive.[11] The jurisprudence follows a similar view to the doctrine, as the Province Administrative Court in Warsaw has stated that the possession of guns is a special entitlement that only those who meet the conditions can enjoy.[12]



Several factors affect establishing a good intelligence picture on firearms trafficking, possession, and gun violence in Poland. Such an example is the system followed by the Department of Intelligence and Criminal Information of the Central Police Headquarters, which does not distinguish between homicides committed with the use of legally or illegally possessed weapons. [13]

Published: December 2023

5. Data acquired from "Data UNODC Firearms Trafficking database", last accessed on 26 September 2023.
6. Ibid.
7. Buczyński, S., Przemyt towarów podrabianych perspektywa kryminologiczna [The smuggling of counterfeit goods – a criminological perspective], Journal of Modern Science, (2014).
8. Euobserver, Ukraine arms-trafficking into Poland on rise, (December 2021).
9. Ministerstwo spraw wewnętrznych i administracji, Raport o stanie bezpieczeństwa w polsce w 2016 roku, last accessed on 9 October 2023. .
10. Chlebowicz, P., Nielegalny handel bronią: studium kryminologiczne, Państwo i Prawo, (2016).
11. Dz. U. 1999 Nr 53 poz. 549.
12. See the decision of the Provincial Administrative Court in Warsaw, File Ref No II SA/Wa 818/20 of 28.10.2020.
13. Chlebowicz, P., Moszczyński, J., Safjański, T. & Buczyński, S., Project TARGET: The success story? An in-depth analysis of illicit fi rearm-trafficking and gun violence in Poland, Flemish Peace Institute, (2022).

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