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Online knowledge platform by Project Insight

Key Data Gun Violence
Portugal 2023 (1/2)

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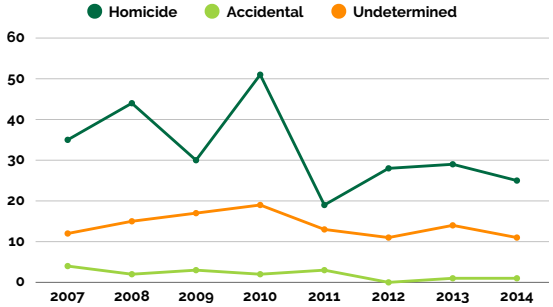
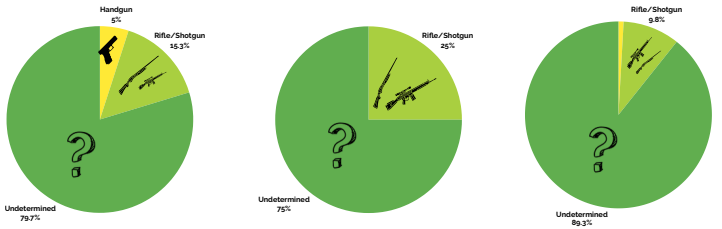
Evolution of homicides and accidents with firearms (2007-2014)[1]



Types of Firearms Used in Fatal Incidents 2007-2014



Homicides: total 261 | Accidental: total 16 | Undetermined: total 112

Handgun
Rifles and shotguns
Unknown

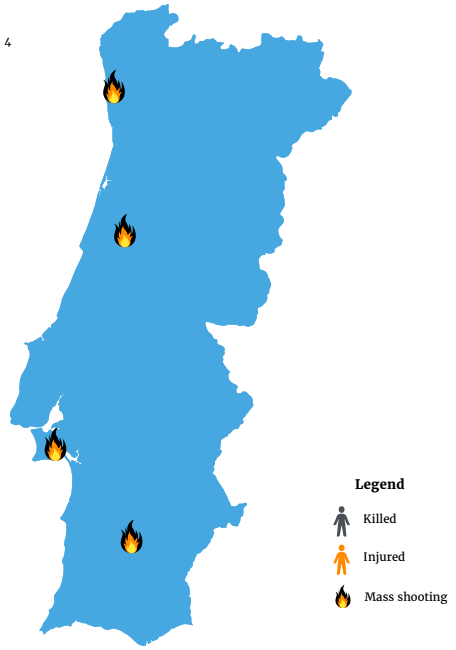
Mass Shootings since 2000[2]

Aljustrel, December 2010[3]
Business dispute
Shotgun
Perpetrator arrested

Póvoa de Varzim, April 2015[4]
Family dispute
Pistol 6.35mm, .32 Revolver
Perpetrator arrested

Montemor-o-Velho, May 2016[5]
Domestic violence
Shotgun
Perpetrator committed suicide

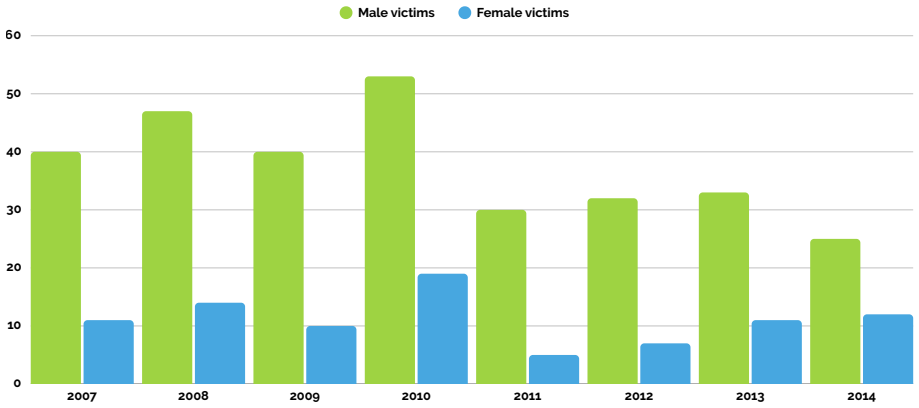
Setubal, April 2023[6]
Quarrel over money and land distribution
Shotgun
Perpetrator committed suicide



Homicide firearm victims: 2007-2014

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, pg. 4.
3. RTP, Detido em Espanha suspeito de triplo homicídio de búlgaros numa herdade de Aljustrel, (October 2011).
4. Observador, Homem matou quatro familiares na Póvoa de Varzim. Após fuga, foi apanhado e confessou crime, (April 2015).
5. Observador, Homem matou três familiares e suicidou-se em Montemor-o-Velho, (May 2016).
6. Jornal de Notícias, Dono de canil mata três a tiro de caçadeira e suicida-se após desentendimento sobre pombos, (April 2023).
7. Data acquired from "World Health Organization Mortality Database", last accessed on 2 May 2020.

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Seizures 2016-2022[8-10]

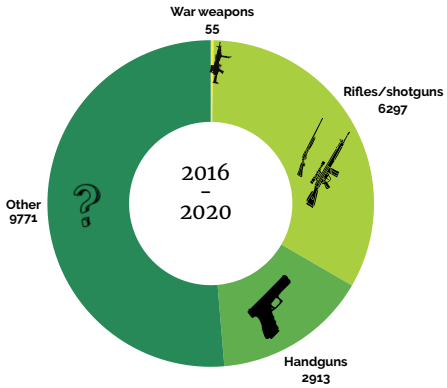
48,482
Firearms seized

719,751
Rounds of ammunition seized **(2018-2022)**

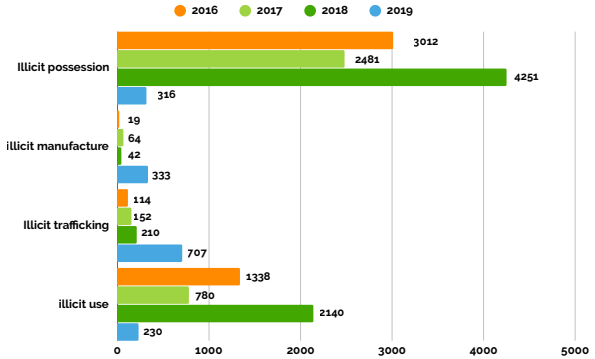
Parts and components data not available

Seizures

Types of firearms seized [11]



Context of seizures 2016-2019 [12]



Trafficking

Being on the southwest corner of Europe, Portugal serves as a transit point for smuggling firearms into Africa. [13]

In the past, because of the country's lax regulations on blank-firing weapons, firearm conversion was a popular mechanism in Portugal. Non-lethal weapons, manufactured in Italy, were smuggled into the Netherlands after being converted into live firing in Portugal. Nowadays, although Portugal remains a firearm conversion destination, a different route is followed; non-lethal guns are produced in Turkey, sold legally in Bulgaria, and smuggled into the Netherlands, where they are converted. [14]

Possession

The Small Arms Survey estimates that, as of 2017, there are 2,186,000 firearms held by civilians in Portugal. Of those in circulation, 1,400,000 are registered, while the remaining 786,000 are considered unregistered. [15]

As Portuguese legislation became particularly strict on the possession of handguns, especially on converted gas pistols, after 2006, today the majority of licenses issued allow the possession of hunting rifles (84.5%), while only 4.4% of firearms licenses allow the possession of handguns. [16]

Published: December 2023

8. Data acquired from "Data UNODC Firearms Trafficking database", last accessed on 26 September 2023.
9. Secretário-Geral do Sistema de Segurança Interna, Relatório Anual de Segurança Interna – Ano 2021, (May 2022), last accessed on 20 November 2023.
10. Secretário-Geral do Sistema de Segurança Interna, Relatório Anual de Segurança Interna – Ano 2022, (March 2023), last accessed on 20 November 2023.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Global Organized Crime Index, Portugal, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, (2023).
14. Duquet, N. & Vanden Auweele, D., Project TARGET: Targeting gun violence and trafficking in Europe, Brussels, Flemish Peace Institute, pg.134., (2022).
15. Krap, A., Estimating Global Civilian-held Firearms Numbers (Annexe), Small Arms Survey, (2018), Find the briefing paper here, last accessed on 6 November 2023.
16. Duquet, N. & Vanden Auweele, D., Project TARGET: Targeting gun violence and trafficking in Europe, Brussels, Flemish Peace Institute, pg.100, (2022).

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