

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report**

**Homicide in North Dakota, 2013**



**Attorney General  
Wayne Stenehjem**

Report prepared by  
Colleen Weltz  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Information Services Section

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The term "homicide," for purposes of this report, includes the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) offenses of murder and non-negligent manslaughter. Homicide refers to the "willful killing of one human being by another." It does not include attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, accidental deaths, justifiable homicides or deaths caused by gross negligence.

## HOMICIDE IN 2013

- In 2013, fourteen homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 723,393, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 1.9 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 3 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Nine of the homicide victims were male.
- **Victim Age:** Twelve of the victims were adults. "Adult" is defined as a person aged 18 or older. See Table 1 on page 2 for a summary of homicide incidents in 2013.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of four homicide victims.
- **Domestic Violence:** There were seven homicides in 2013 resulting from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 10.
- **Assailant Gender:** Thirteen of the seventeen identified assailants were male.
- **Assailant Age:** All of the identified assailants were adults.
- While tribal law enforcement agencies and any other federal law enforcement entities in the state do not participate in the state UCR program, every effort is made to include all homicide incidents occurring within the state's borders.

**Table 1  
Summary of Homicide Incidents  
North Dakota, 2013**

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Weapons Used	Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
2/5/2013 Bottineau County	40	M	48	M	Rifle	Acquaintance	Other Circumstance
2/19/2013 Fargo	40	F	46	M	Firearm	Spouse	Argument Domestic Violence
2/25/2013 Spirit Lake Reservation	27	M	26	M	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Brother	Domestic Violence
3/2/2013 Standing Rock Reservation	24	M	30	F	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Acquaintance	Argument
3/16/2013 Williston	28	M	35	M	Firearm	Unknown	Argument
3/17/2013 Williams County	32	M	31	M	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Friend	Argument
4/24/2013 Williams County	58	M	34	M	Firearm	Unknown	Unknown
5/9/2013 Bismarck	18	M	25 20	M M	Blunt Object	Otherwise Known Otherwise Known	Other Circumstance
5/30/2013 Burleigh County	62	F	36	M	Blunt Object	Parent	Argument Domestic Violence
6/12/2013 Spirit Lake Reservation	2	F	31	F	Personal Weapon	Other Family Member	Domestic Violence
7/23/2013 Bowman	NN	F	42	F	Asphyxiation	Child	Domestic Violence
11/17/2013 Grand Forks County	33	M	21 24 23 23	M M M F	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Relationship Unknown Relationship Unknown Relationship Unknown Otherwise Known	Burglary
11/23/2013 Fargo	30 23	M F	23	M	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Acquaintance Ex-Girlfriend	Other Circumstance Domestic Violence

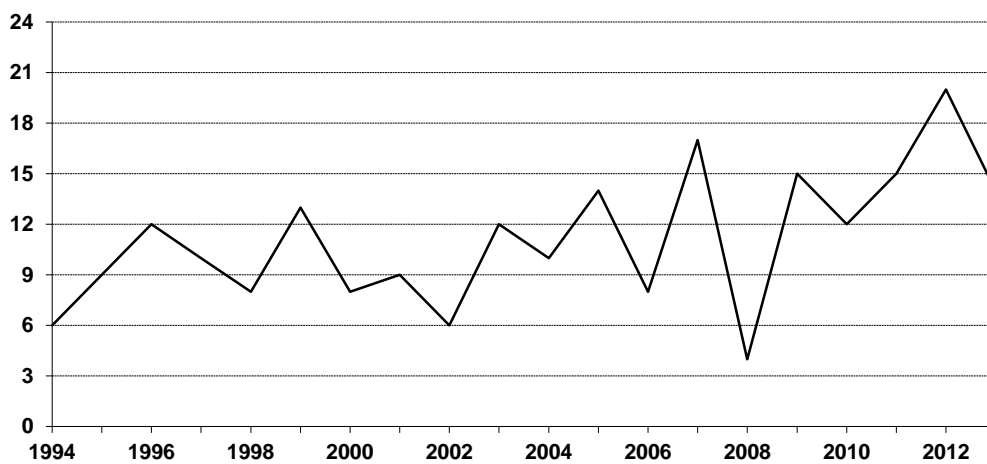
## **HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES**

- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 1994-2013.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 11.

**Table 2  
Homicide Rate  
North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Homicide Total</b>	<b>Population Estimate</b>	<b>Rate/100,000 Population</b>
1994	6	638,000	0.9
1995	9	641,000	1.4
1996	12	644,000	1.9
1997	10	641,000	1.6
1998	8	638,000	1.3
1999	13	634,000	2.1
2000	8	642,200	1.2
2001	9	634,450	1.4
2002	6	634,110	0.9
2003	12	634,000	1.9
2004	10	634,500	1.6
2005	14	637,000	2.2
2006	8	636,000	1.3
2007	17	640,000	2.7
2008	4	641,500	0.6
2009	15	647,000	2.3
2010	12	672,591	1.6
2011	15	683,932	2.2
2012	20	699,628	2.9
2013	14	723,393	1.9

**Figure 1  
Homicide in North Dakota  
1994-2013**



## **VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER**

- Sixty percent of the 222 total homicide victims during the period 1994-2013 were male.

**Table 3**  
**Gender of Homicide Victims**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
1994	2	4	6
1995	6	3	9
1996	6	6	12
1997	7	3	10
1998	6	2	8
1999	9	4	13
2000	4	4	8
2001	7	2	9
2002	2	4	6
2003	6	6	12
2004	7	3	10
2005	8	6	14
2006	4	4	8
2007	7	10	17
2008	3	1	4
2009	7	8	15
2010	8	4	12
2011	10	5	15
2012	14	6	20
2013	9	5	14
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>132 (60%)</b>	<b>90 (40%)</b>	<b>222</b>

## **VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE**

- Of the 222 homicides during the period 1994-2013, 82 percent were adults. See Table 4 below.
- Thirty-eight percent of homicide victims were between the ages of 21 and 40. See Table 5 on the following page for information regarding age and gender of victims.

**Table 4  
Homicide Victims  
Juvenile and Adult  
North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
1994		6	6
1995	2	7	9
1996		12	12
1997		10	10
1998	2	6	8
1999	2	11	13
2000		8	8
2001		9	9
2002	2	4	6
2003	2	10	12
2004	3	7	10
2005	2	12	14
2006	2	6	8
2007	4	13	17
2008	2	2	4
2009	4	11	15
2010	1	11	12
2011	4	11	15
2012	6	14	20
2013	2	12	14
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>222</b>

**Table 5  
Homicide Victims  
By Age and Gender  
North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Less than 1 year	10	9	19
01-05	2	3	5
06-10	5	2	7
11-15	2	0	2
16-20	17	10	27
21-25	16	3	19
26-30	18	7	25
31-35	8	7	15
36-40	15	10	25
41-45	4	11	15
46-50	13	9	22
51-55	6	4	10
56-60	7	2	9
61-65	1	4	5
Over 65	8	9	17
Total 1994-2013	132	90	222



## **WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS**

- Thirty-nine percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 1994-2013 resulted from firearm use. See Table 6 below.
- In homicides involving firearms, the weapon was more likely to be a long gun than a handgun.
- Thirty-nine of the 222 total homicide deaths involved the use of "personal weapons." Personal weapons include the use of hands, fists and feet as weapons.

**Table 6  
Weapons of Homicide  
North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Handgun</b>	<b>Other Firearm</b>	<b>Knife</b>	<b>Blunt Instrument</b>	<b>Personal Weapon</b>	<b>Other or Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>
1994	1	2				3	6
1995	2	2	1	2		2	9
1996	3	4	4			1	12
1997		1	1	2	4	2	10
1998		3	2			3	8
1999	1	4	3	1		4	13
2000	2	1	2	1	2		8
2001	2	3	1	1	2		9
2002	1	1			2	2	6
2003	4	7			1		12
2004		5		1	1	3	10
2005	2	1	1	2	5	3	14
2006	1		4		2	1	8
2007	4		2	1	6	4	17
2008			2		2		4
2009	3	3	2	2	3	2	15
2010	2	5	1	1	3		12
2011	2	4	4	1	2	2	15
2012	1	6	6	1	2	4	20
2013		4	6	2	2		14
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>222</b>

- Firearms were used in 22 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-three percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Thirty-four percent of homicides of males and 47 percent of homicides of females involved the use of firearms. See Table 8.
- Twenty-one percent of homicides of males and 18 percent of homicides of females involved knives.

**Table 7  
Homicide Victims  
By Weapon and Age Category  
North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	1	30	31
Other Firearm	8	48	56
Knife	2	42	44
Blunt Instrument		18	18
Personal Weapon	17	22	39
Other or Unknown	12	22	34
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>222</b>

**Table 8  
Homicide Victims  
By Weapon and Gender  
North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	18	13	31
Other Firearm	27	29	56
Knife	28	16	44
Blunt Instrument	15	3	18
Personal Weapon	22	17	39
Other or Unknown	22	12	34
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>222</b>

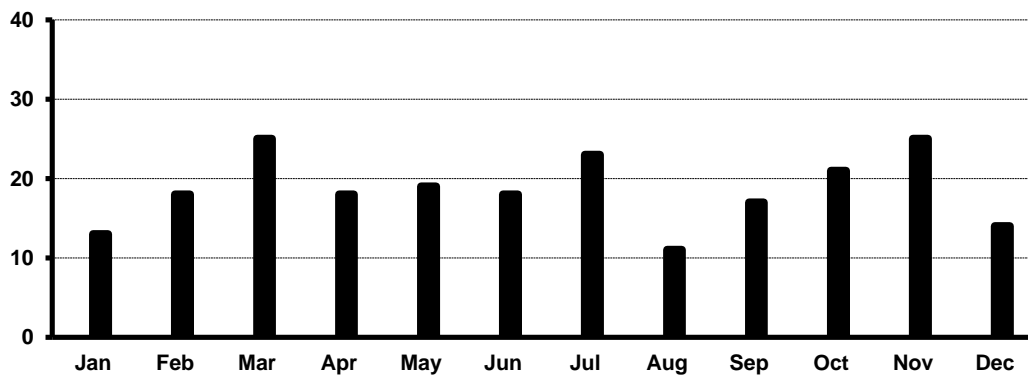
## MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

- During the period 1994-2013, the months of March and November had the highest number of homicide deaths. See Table 9 below. Figure 2 illustrates this information graphically.

**Table 9**  
**Deaths Due to Homicide**  
**By Month, 1994-2013**

Month	Number	Percent of Total Homicides
January	13	5.8 %
February	18	8.1
March	25	11.3
April	18	8.1
May	19	8.6
June	18	8.1
July	23	10.3
August	11	4.9
September	17	7.7
October	21	9.5
November	25	11.3
December	14	6.3
Total 1994-2013	222	100.0

**Figure 2**  
**Homicides by Month of Occurrence**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**



## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS**

**For purposes of this report, domestic violence deaths include those involving a spouse, former spouse, parent, child, persons related by blood or marriage, persons in a present or former dating relationship, persons who are presently residing together or have resided together in the past, persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they are or have been married or have lived together at any time, other persons on premises when a domestic incident occurs, and romantic triangle situations.**

- For the period 1994-2013, 50 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

**Table 10  
Domestic Violence Deaths  
North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Non-Domestic</b>	<b>No Assailant Identified</b>	<b>Homicide Total</b>
1994	4	1	1	6
1995	3	6		9
1996	7	5		12
1997	2	8		10
1998	6	2		8
1999	7	6		13
2000	6	1	1	8
2001	2	7		9
2002	4	1	1	6
2003	8	4		12
2004	6	4		10
2005	6	7	1	14
2006	4	3	1	8
2007	7	9	1	17
2008		4		4
2009	12	3		15
2010	6	6		12
2011	7	7	1	15
2012	6	13	1	20
2013	7	7		14
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>222</b>

- Persons killed in domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in non-domestic incidents.
- Fifty-one percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 33 percent of female deaths in non-domestic violence incidents involved firearms.
- Seventy-eight percent of female homicide victims were killed in domestic violence incidents, compared to 30 percent of males.

**Table 11**  
**Domestic Violence Deaths**  
**By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Victim**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		17	1	13
Other Firearm	4	27	4	21
Knife	2	19		22
Blunt Instrument		8		10
Personal Weapon	13	8	4	13
Other or Unknown	7	5	4	12
Total 1994-2013	26	84	13	91

**Table 12**  
**Domestic Violence Deaths**  
**By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	5	12	13	1
Other Firearm	7	24	20	5
Knife	11	10	16	6
Blunt Instrument	5	3	10	
Personal Weapon	6	15	16	1
Other or Unknown	6	6	11	5
Total 1994-2013	40	70	86	18

## **CLEARANCE RATES**

- Cases may be "cleared by arrest" of an assailant, or "cleared exceptionally," if a physical arrest cannot be made for reasons beyond the control of law enforcement. An example of an exceptional clearance would be a case in which the assailant committed suicide after killing someone.
- "Clearances" should not be interpreted as "convictions." The information regarding clearances, collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, reflects law enforcement activity. If an arrest is made, the UCR program considers the case cleared. UCR data does not reflect the results of prosecution of assailants.
- The average clearance rate for homicides in North Dakota during the period from 1994 to 2013 is 95 percent.

**Table 13**  
**Clearance Rates for Homicides**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Cleared</b>	<b>Total Homicides</b>	<b>North Dakota Clearance Rate</b>	<b>National Clearance Rate*</b>
1994	5	6	83	64
1995	9	9	100	65
1996	12	12	100	67
1997	10	10	100	66
1998	8	8	100	69
1999	13	13	100	69
2000	7	8	88	63
2001	9	9	100	63
2002	5	6	83	64
2003	12	12	100	62
2004	10	10	100	63
2005	12	14	86	62
2006	7	8	88	61
2007	15	17	88	61
2008	4	4	100	64
2009	15	15	100	67
2010	12	12	100	65
2011	14	15	93	65
2012	19	20	95	63
2013	14	14	100	Not Available

\* Clearance rates reported in annual Crime in the United States reports published by the FBI.

## **IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER**

- During the period 1994-2013, 88 percent of the 235 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Eight homicides during 1994-2013 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

**Table 14**  
**Identified Homicide Assailants**  
**By Gender**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
1994	4	1	5 *
1995	19		19
1996	13	2	15
1997	8	1	9
1998	5	3	8
1999	9	2	11
2000	7	1	8 *
2001	11		11
2002	5		5 *
2003	9		9
2004	13	1	14
2005	13	1	14 *
2006	6	1	7 *
2007	14	3	17 *
2008	6	1	7
2009	15	2	17
2010	11	1	12
2011	11	2	13 *
2012	15	2	17 *
2013	13	4	17
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>207 (88%)</b>	<b>28 (12%)</b>	<b>235</b>

\* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

- Ninety-two percent of the total 235 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 235 assailants identified by law enforcement, 66 percent were between the ages of 16 and 35. See Table 16 on the following page for information on age and gender of identified assailants.

**Table 15**  
**Identified Homicide Assailants**  
**Juvenile and Adult**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
1994		5	5 *
1995	13	6	19
1996	1	14	15
1997		9	9
1998	1	7	8
1999		11	11
2000		8	8 *
2001		11	11
2002		5	5 *
2003		9	9
2004		14	14
2005		14	14 *
2006		7	7 *
2007	3	14	17 *
2008		7	7
2009		17	17
2010		12	12
2011		13	13 *
2012	1	16	17 *
2013		17	17
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>19 (8%)</b>	<b>216 (92%)</b>	<b>235</b>

\* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.



**Table 16**  
**Identified Homicide Assailants**  
**By Age and Gender**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
01-05			0
06-10			0
11-15	7	1	8
16-20	40	4	44
21-25	48	7	55
26-30	31	6	37
31-35	16	3	19
36-40	14	2	16
41-45	14	3	17
46-50	15	1	16
51-55	6	1	7
56-60	7		7
61-65	3		3
Over 65	6		6
Total 1994-2013	207	28	235

## **WEAPONS AND IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS**

- In homicide incidents involving firearms, juvenile assailants were much more likely to use firearms other than handguns.
- Male assailants were more likely to use firearms in homicide incidents, while females were more likely to use knives.

**Table 17**  
**Identified Assailants**  
**By Type of Weapon and Age Category**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	1	30	31
Other Firearm	9	47	56
Knife	2	52	54
Blunt Instrument	3	20	23
Personal Weapon	3	40	43
Other or Unknown	1	27	28
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>235</b>

**Table 18**  
**Identified Assailants**  
**By Type of Weapon and Gender**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	30	1	31
Other Firearm	54	2	56
Knife	43	11	54
Blunt Instrument	23		23
Personal Weapon	35	8	43
Other or Unknown	22	6	28
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>235</b>

- Forty-eight percent of assailants identified by law enforcement were involved in domestic violence incidents. See Table 19 below.
- Assailants were more likely to use firearms in domestic incidents than in non-domestic incidents. See Table 20.
- Knives were more likely to be used by assailants in non-domestic incidents.
- Seventy-five percent of identified female assailants were involved in domestic incidents, compared to 44 percent for males. See Table 22.

**Table 19**  
**Identified Homicide Assailants**  
**Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Non-Domestic</b>	<b>Total</b>
1994	4	1	5 *
1995	4	15	19
1996	7	8	15
1997	2	7	9
1998	6	2	8
1999	6	5	11
2000	6	2	8 *
2001	2	9	11
2002	4	1	5 *
2003	6	3	9
2004	6	8	14
2005	7	7	14 *
2006	4	3	7 *
2007	9	8	17 *
2008		7	7
2009	14	3	17
2010	6	6	12
2011	7	6	13 *
2012	6	11	17 *
2013	6	11	17
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>112 (48%)</b>	<b>123 (52%)</b>	<b>235</b>

\* Indicates that at least one incident for the year does not have an identified assailant.

**Table 20**  
**Weapon Use by Identified Assailants**  
**Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Non-Domestic</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	19	12	31
Other Firearm	28	28	56
Knife	19	35	54
Blunt Instrument	9	14	23
Personal Weapon	23	20	43
Other or Unknown	14	14	28
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>235</b>

**Table 21**  
**Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents**  
**By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Domestic</b>		<b>Non-Domestic</b>	
	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>
Handgun		19	1	11
Other Firearm		28	9	19
Knife		19	2	33
Blunt Instrument		9	3	11
Personal Weapon	2	21	1	19
Other or Unknown	1	13		14
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>107</b>

**Table 22**  
**Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents**  
**By Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant**  
**North Dakota, 1994-2013**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Domestic</b>		<b>Non-Domestic</b>	
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Handgun	18	1	12	
Other Firearm	26	2	28	
Knife	13	6	30	5
Blunt Instrument	9		14	
Personal Weapon	16	7	19	1
Other or Unknown	9	5	13	1
<b>Total 1994-2013</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>7</b>