

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

Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report

Homicide in North Dakota, 2014



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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 2014

- In 2014, nineteen homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 739,482, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 2.6 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 3 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Seventeen of the homicide victims were male.
- **Victim Age:** Eighteen 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 2014.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of seven homicide victims.
- **Domestic Violence:** There were six homicides in 2014 resulting from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 10.
- **Assailant Gender:** Eighteen of the twenty-two 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, 2014**

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Weapons Used	Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
1/12/14 Ward County	13	M	35	F	Other Weapon	Child	Other Circumstance Domestic Violence Starvation
1/18/14 Williston	52	M	49	M	Firearm	Friend	Argument
1/27/14 Mandan	28	M	23	M	Handgun	Friend	Unknown Circumstance
2/3/2014 Steele SO	66	M	60	F	Drugs & Asphyxiation	Spouse	Lovers' Quarrel Domestic Violence
2/23/2014 Minot	44	F	47	M	Blunt Object & Personal Weapon	Girlfriend	Argument Domestic Violence
3/7/2014 Fargo	22	M	21	F	Motor Vehicle	Boyfriend	Argument Domestic Violence
3/14/2014 Fargo	26	M	47 23 19 19	M F M M	Cutting Instrument	Acquaintance Acquaintance Acquaintance Acquaintance	Unknown Circumstance Possibly Drug related
3/18/2014 Standing Rock Reservation	38	F	29	M	Personal Weapon	Relationship Unknown	Other Circumstance Sexual Abuse
3/27/2014 Fort Berthold Reservation	22	M	23	M	Knife	Acquaintance	Argument
6/24/2014 Grand Forks	24	M	18 29	M M	Firearm	Relationship Unknown Relationship Unknown	Other Felony Involved Burglary
6/26/2014 Fargo	28	M	24	M	Firearm	Other Family Member	Argument Domestic Violence
8/8/2014 Williston	25	M	29	M	Personal Weapon	Stranger	Argument
09/15/2014 Minot	25	M	37	M	Cutting Instrument & Blunt Object	Acquaintance	Unknown Circumstance
10/09/2014 Mandan	62	M	49	M	Rifle	Neighbor	Argument
11/16/2014 Dickinson	37	M			Firearm	Unknown	Unknown
11/22/2014 Standing Rock Reservation	29	M	26	M	Cutting Instrument	Other Family Member	Other Circumstance Domestic Violence
11/26/2014 Fargo	54	M	44	M	Personal Weapon	Acquaintance	Unknown
12/4/2014 Bismarck	57	M	45	M	Knife	Acquaintance	Argument
12/21/2014 Fort Berthold Reservation	33	M	31	M	Personal Weapon	Friend	Argument

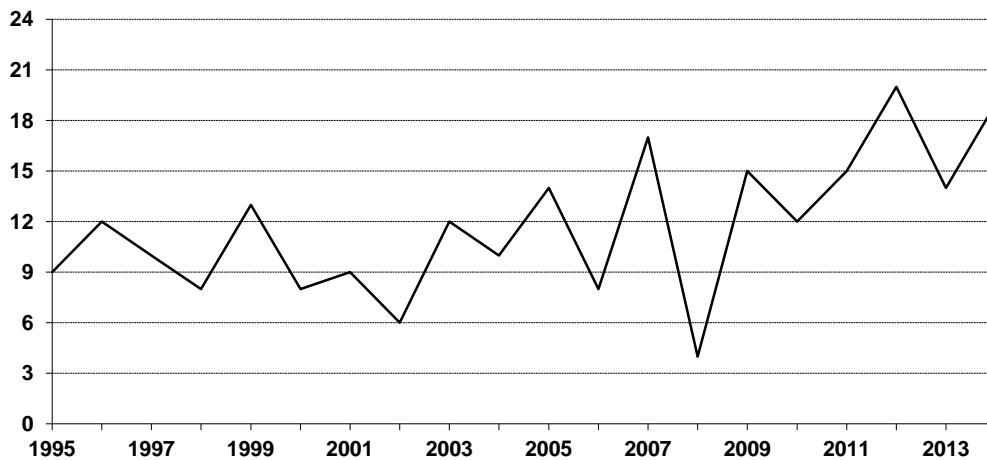
HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES

- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 1995-2014.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 12.

Table 2
Homicide Rate
North Dakota, 1995-2014

Year	Homicide Total	Population Estimate	Rate/100,000 Population
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
2014	19	739,482	2.6

Figure 1
Homicide in North Dakota
1995-2014



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- Sixty-three percent of the 235 total homicide victims during the period 1995-2014 were male.

Table 3
Gender of Homicide Victims
North Dakota, 1995-2014

Year	Male	Female	Total
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
2014	17	2	19
Total 1995-2014	147 (63%)	88 (37%)	235

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE

- Of the 235 homicides during the period 1995-2014, 83 percent were adults. See Table 4 below.
- Forty 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, 1995-2014**

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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
2014	1	18	19
Total 1995-2014	41	194	235

**Table 5
Homicide Victims
By Age and Gender
North Dakota, 1995-2014**

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 1 year	10	9	19
01-05	2	3	5
06-10	5	2	7
11-15	3		3
16-20	16	9	25
21-25	21	3	24
26-30	22	6	28
31-35	9	6	15
36-40	16	11	27
41-45	4	12	16
46-50	13	8	21
51-55	8	4	12
56-60	8	2	10
61-65	2	4	6
Over 65	8	9	17
Total 1995-2014	147	88	235

WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

- Thirty-eight percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 1995-2014 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.
- Forty-three of the 235 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, 1995-2014**

Year	Handgun	Other Firearm	Knife	Blunt Instrument	Personal Weapon	Other or Unknown	Total
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
2014	1	5	5	1	4	3	19
Total 1995-2014	31	59	47	19	43	36	235

- Firearms were used in 22 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-two percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Thirty-five percent of homicides of males and 44 percent of homicides of females involved the use of firearms. See Table 8.
- Twenty-two 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, 1995-2014**

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	1	30	31
Other Firearm	8	51	59
Knife	2	47	49
Blunt Instrument		19	19
Personal Weapon	17	26	43
Other or Unknown	13	21	34
Total 1995-2014	41	194	235

**Table 8
Homicide Victims
By Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1995-2014**

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	19	12	31
Other Firearm	32	27	59
Knife	33	16	49
Blunt Instrument	15	4	19
Personal Weapon	25	18	43
Other or Unknown	23	11	34
Total 1995-2014	147	88	235

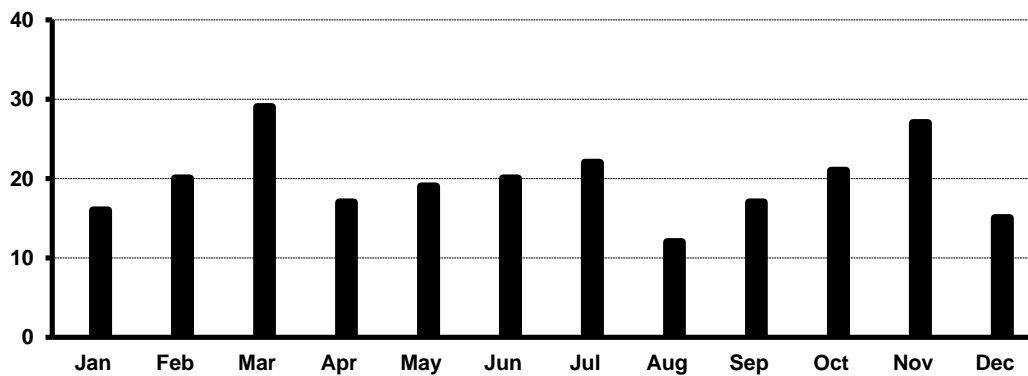
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

- During the period 1995-2014, 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, 1995-2014

Month	Number	Percent of Total Homicides
January	16	6.8%
February	20	8.5
March	29	12.3
April	17	7.2
May	19	8.1
June	20	8.5
July	22	9.4
August	12	5.1
September	17	7.2
October	21	8.9
November	27	11.5
December	15	6.4
Total 1995-2014	235	100.0

Figure 2
Homicides by Month of Occurrence
North Dakota, 1995-2014



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 1995-2014, 48 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

**Table 10
Domestic Violence Deaths
North Dakota, 1995-2014**

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	No Assailant Identified	Homicide Total
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
2014	6	13		19
Total 1995-2014	112	116	7	235

- Persons killed in domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in non-domestic incidents.
- Forty-nine percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 32 percent of female deaths in non-domestic violence incidents involved firearms.
- Seventy-six percent of female homicide victims were killed in domestic violence incidents, compared to 31 percent of males.

Table 11
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Victim
North Dakota, 1995-2014

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		16	1	14
Other Firearm	4	26	4	25
Knife	2	20		26
Blunt Instrument		9		10
Personal Weapon	13	8	4	17
Other or Unknown	8	6	4	11
Total 1995-2014	27	85	13	103

Table 12
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim
North Dakota, 1995-2014

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	5	11	14	1
Other Firearm	8	22	24	5
Knife	12	10	20	6
Blunt Instrument	5	4	10	
Personal Weapon	6	15	19	2
Other or Unknown	9	5	10	5
Total 1995-2014	45	67	97	19

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 1995 to 2014 is 96 percent.

Table 13
Clearance Rates for Homicides
North Dakota, 1995-2014

Year	Total Cleared	Total Homicides	North Dakota Clearance Rate	National Clearance Rate*
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	64
2014	18	19	95	Not Available

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

IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- During the period 1995-2014, 88 percent of the 252 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Eight homicides during 1995-2014 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

Table 14
Identified Homicide Assailants
By Gender
North Dakota, 1995-2014

Year	Male	Female	Total
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
2014	18	4	22 *
Total 1995-2014	221 (88%)	31 (12%)	252

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

- Ninety-two percent of the total 252 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 252 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, 1995-2014

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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
2014		22	22 *
Total 1995-2014	19 (8%)	233 (92%)	252

* 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, 1995-2014

Age	Male	Female	Total
01-05			0
06-10			0
11-15	7	1	8
16-20	42	4	46
21-25	50	9	59
26-30	35	6	41
31-35	16	4	20
36-40	15	2	17
41-45	16	2	18
46-50	18	1	19
51-55	6	1	7
56-60	7	1	8
61-65	3		3
Over 65	6		6
Total 1995-2014	221	31	252

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, 1995-2014

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	1	30	31
Other Firearm	9	50	59
Knife	2	60	62
Blunt Instrument	3	21	24
Personal Weapon	3	44	47
Other or Unknown	1	28	29
Total 1995-2014	19	233	252

Table 18
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1995-2014

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	30	1	31
Other Firearm	57	2	59
Knife	50	12	62
Blunt Instrument	24		24
Personal Weapon	39	8	47
Other or Unknown	21	8	29
Total 1995-2014	221	31	252

- Forty-five 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 non-domestic incidents than in domestic incidents. See Table 20.
- Knives were more likely to be used by assailants in non-domestic incidents.
- Seventy-seven percent of identified female assailants were involved in domestic incidents, compared to 41 percent for males. See Table 22.

Table 19
Identified Homicide Assailants
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
North Dakota, 1995-2014

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
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
2014	6	16	22 *
Total 1995-2014	114 (45%)	138 (55%)	252

* 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, 1995-2014

Weapon	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
Handgun	18	13	31
Other Firearm	27	32	59
Knife	20	42	62
Blunt Instrument	10	14	24
Personal Weapon	23	24	47
Other or Unknown	16	13	29
Total 1995-2014	114	139	252

Table 21
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant
North Dakota, 1995-2014

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		18	1	12
Other Firearm		27	9	23
Knife		20	2	40
Blunt Instrument		10	3	11
Personal Weapon	2	21	1	23
Other or Unknown	1	15		13
Total 1995-2014	3	111	16	122

Table 22
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant
North Dakota, 1995-2014

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	17	1	13	
Other Firearm	25	2	32	
Knife	14	6	36	6
Blunt Instrument	10		14	
Personal Weapon	16	7	23	1
Other or Unknown	8	8	13	
Total 1995-2014	90	24	131	7