

NORTH DAKOTA

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REPORT

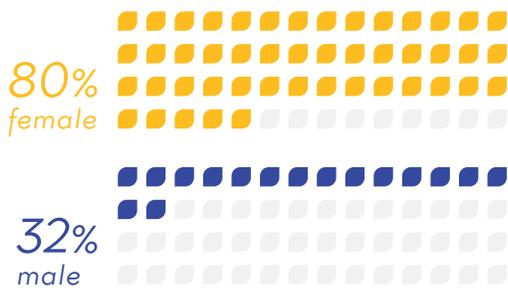
2015



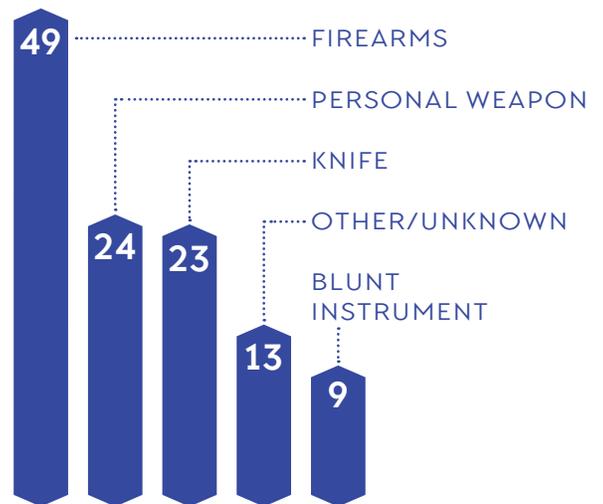
Between 1996-2015, 48% of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence. 80% of female homicide victims were killed in domestic violence incidents, compared to 32% of males.

1996-2015, 118 people were murdered due to incidents of domestic violence.

homicide victims killed in domestic violence incidents

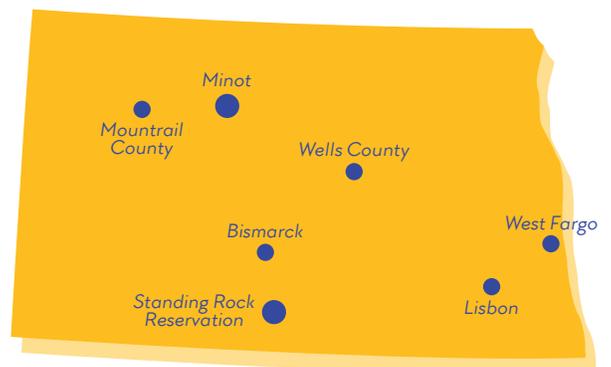


Weapons Used



IN 2015, THERE WERE 9 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES IN NORTH DAKOTA

● = 1 DV Homicide ● = 2 DV Homicides



Established in 2011, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission reviews domestic violence deaths that have occurred in the state and recommends policies and protocols to help prevent future incidents of domestic violence and resulting fatalities.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NORTH DAKOTA



“In One Day”



300 VICTIMS SERVED IN ONE DAY *September 16, 2015*

129 domestic violence victims (65 children and 64 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

171 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.



95 HOTLINE CALLS ANSWERED

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, domestic violence programs answered more than 3 hotline calls every hour.



14 UNMET REQUESTS FOR SERVICES IN ONE DAY

Many programs reported a critical shortage of funds and staff to assist victims in need of services. In addition to housing and emergency shelter, programs reported that of the service requests they could not meet, Attorney/Legal Representation and Cash Assistance/Financial Assistance services were most in demand.

2015 FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NORTH DAKOTA

5,620

INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE were reported to crisis intervention centers in North Dakota



1,382 victims served were abused by a former spouse or former partner.



In at least **42% of cases**, the **abuser had a history of abusive behavior** with other adults including prior partners.



10% of cases reported weapons were used. In cases involving weapons, guns were used in 24% of cases and knives were used in 33% of cases.



In 32% of new cases, alcohol used by abuser only was indicated. Alcohol use by both victim and offender was indicated in 9% of the cases.

5,356

NEW VICTIMS received services from crisis intervention centers in North Dakota

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS



FIREARMS

Access to firearms increases the risk of intimate partner homicide more than five times more than in instances where there are no weapons, according to a recent study¹. In addition, abusers who possess guns tend to inflict the most severe abuse on their partners.

In ND between 1996–2015 42% of domestic violence homicides involved firearms. Persons killed in domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in non-domestic violence incidents.

Many states including ND have laws that explicitly grant law enforcement the authority to remove guns when responding to a domestic violence incident, and policies that empower courts to order alleged batterers to surrender their firearms through civil protective orders provide the criminal justice system with tools to disarm batterers.



RECOMMENDATION

Develop a statewide policy or procedure for the removal of firearms that can be implemented locally and tailored to the law enforcement agency or judicial district.

SUPERVISION

Most studies² agree that the vast majority of domestic violence perpetrators that come to the attention of criminal justice or court authorities, much less end up on probation, have a prior criminal history for a variety of nonviolent and violent offenses against males as well as females of a domestic and non-domestic nature.



RECOMMENDATION

Probation officers should consider this caseload as serious as any other on probation, more so than those that do not pose such an explicit threat to their victims, past, current and future. In preparing PSIs, officers should check civil protective order files in addition to criminal files and consider them as equivalent risk markers.

DANGER OR LETHALITY ASSESSMENT

Significant research by Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, of The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, spanning 25 years noted only 4 percent of domestic violence murder victims nationwide had ever availed themselves of domestic violence program services and in 50% of domestic violence-related homicides, officers had previously responded to a call on the scene. Danger or lethality assessments helps to determine the level of danger a victim has of being killed by their intimate partner. In North Dakota, several communities have received training and are implementing a lethality assessment in domestic violence cases.



RECOMMENDATION

Statewide adoption and implementation of a lethality or danger assessment in domestic violence cases.

Sources: Annual Crime and Homicide Reports, Office of Attorney General; CAWS North Dakota

1 J. C. Campbell, D; Webster, J; Koziol-McLain, C. R; et al. 2003. Risk Factors For Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results From A Multi-Site Case Control Study. American Journal of Public Health. 93(7).
2 Gelles, R. Intimate Violence in Families (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1997. Hartley, C., and L. Frohmann. "Cook County Target Abuser Call (TAC): An Evaluation of a Specialized Domestic Violence Court." Final report for National Institute of Justice, grant number 2000-WT-VX-0003. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, August 2003, NCJ 202944. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=202944>