

NORTH DAKOTA

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FATALITY REPORT

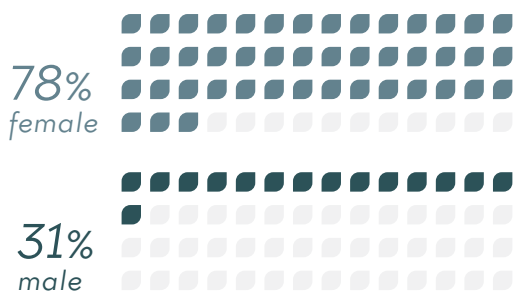
2016



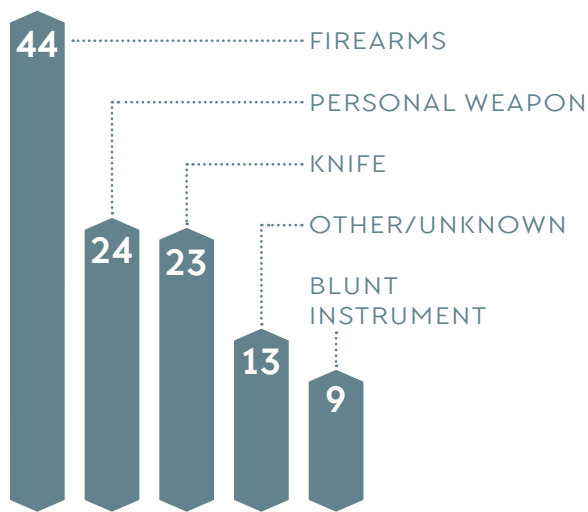
Between 1997-2016, 45% of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence. 78% of female homicide victims were killed in domestic violence incidents, compared to 31% of males. In 2016, there were two domestic violence homicides.

1997-2016, 113 people were murdered due to incidents of domestic violence.

homicide victims killed in domestic violence incidents



Weapons Used



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”



309 VICTIMS SERVED IN ONE DAY *September 14, 2016*

121 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

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



145 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 6 hotline calls every hour.



25 UNMET REQUESTS FOR SERVICES IN ONE DAY

Victims made 25 requests for services, including emergency shelter, housing, transportation, childcare, legal advocacy and more, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services.

2016 FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NORTH DAKOTA



1,128 victims served were abused by a former spouse or former partner.



In at least **37% of cases**, the **abuser had a history of abusive behavior** with other adults including prior partners.



14% of cases reported weapons were used. In cases involving weapons, guns were used in 14% of cases and knives were used in 22% of cases.



In 33% of new cases, alcohol used by abuser only was indicated. Alcohol use by both victim and offender was indicated in 9% of the cases.

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

Several factors were common in all fatality review cases that have been reviewed by the DVFR Commission since 2011 including one or both parties having a history of domestic violence incidents (in the current and previous relationships); the majority of the incidents resulted in involvement with law enforcement and the criminal justice system. In many instances, multiple judges hear and make decisions about cases involving the same victim and offender and may miss opportunities to make connections or determine lethality in cases.

Domestic Violence Court is a dedicated domestic violence criminal court that includes all felony and misdemeanor cases involving one or more allegations of domestic violence occurring between intimate partners, including relationships that involve current and former dating relationships, cohabitating couples or people with children in common. Through civil protective orders provide the criminal justice system with tools to disarm batterers.



RECOMMENDATION

Pursue the legislative and policy changes necessary to create a domestic violence court pilot program in North Dakota.

NOTICE AND SERVICE OF ORDERS

Victims often apply for or receive three types of orders in domestic violence incidents—domestic violence protection orders (NDCC), disorderly conduct restraining order (NDCC), or a criminal no contact order or order prohibiting contact as a condition of bond. Currently, there is no process for streamlining the transmission of an order from the court to the agency responsible for entering it into a database, serving the order and providing notice (LE) which leads to a gap in safety for victims.



RECOMMENDATION

Pursue the legislative and policy changes necessary to create language and the process to require submission of data related to all orders into a statewide system.
