

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

Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report

Homicide in North Dakota, 2017



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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 2017

- In 2017, twelve homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 755,393, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 1.6 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 3 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Seven of the homicide victims were male.
- **Victim Age:** All 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 2017.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of five homicide victims.
- **Domestic Violence:** There were four homicides in 2017 resulting from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 10.
- **Assailant Gender:** Ten of the twelve 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, 2017**

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Weapons Used	Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
1/18/17 Rolette SO	29	M	28	M	Firearm	On Duty Peace Officer	Assaults on Law Enforcement Officer
5/13/17 Turtle Mountain Reservation	43	M	28	M	Blunt Object	Stranger	Argument
5/22/17 Fargo	33	M	27	F	Motor Vehicle	Former Boyfriend	Argument Domestic Violence
5/27/17 Fargo	45	M	43	M	Personal Weapon	Stranger	Argument
6/5/17 Standing Rock Reservation	58	M	36 30	M M	Blunt Object	Stranger Stranger	Robbery in Progress
7/14/17 Williston	43	M	27	M	Handgun	Stranger	Argument
7/20/17 McKenzie SO	28	F	31	M	Firearm	Acquaintance	Argument
8/5/17 Jamestown	26	F	33	M	Rifle	Girlfriend	Lover's Quarrel Domestic Violence
8/16/17 Minot	25	F	27	M	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Girlfriend	Lover's Quarrel Domestic Violence
8/19/17 Fargo	22	F			Other		Other Circumstances
11/14/17 Spirit Lake Reservation	50	F	42	M	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Girlfriend	Argument Domestic Violence
11/16/17 Minot	58	M	38	F	Handgun	Otherwise Known	Unknown Circumstance

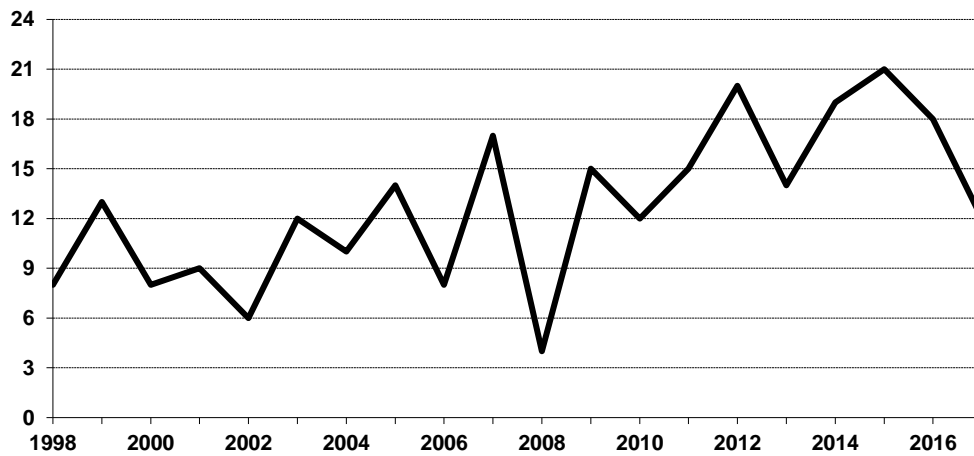
HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES

- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 1998-2017.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 13.

Table 2
Homicide Rate
North Dakota, 1998-2017

Year	Homicide Total	Population Estimate	Rate/100,000 Population
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
2015	21	756,927	2.7
2016	18	757,952	2.4
2017	12	755,393	1.6

Figure 1
Homicide in North Dakota
1998-2017



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- Sixty-four percent of the 255 total homicide victims during the period 1998-2017 were male.

Table 3
Gender of Homicide Victims
North Dakota, 1998-2017

Year	Male	Female	Total
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
2015	16	5	21
2016	13	5	18
2017	7	5	12
Total 1998-2017	164 (64%)	91 (36%)	255

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE

- Of the 255 homicides during the period 1998-2017, 83 percent were adults. See Table 4 below.
- Forty-three 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, 1998-2017**

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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
2015	4	17	21
2016		18	18
2017		12	12
Total 1998-2017	43	212	255

**Table 5
Homicide Victims
By Age and Gender
North Dakota, 1998-2017**

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 1 year	12	11	23
01-05	2	2	4
06-10	4	2	6
11-15	3		3
16-20	17	9	26
21-25	25	5	30
26-30	27	9	36
31-35	14	4	18
36-40	13	12	25
41-45	8	14	22
46-50	12	7	19
51-55	7	3	10
56-60	10	2	12
61-65	3	3	6
Over 65	7	8	15
Total 1998-2017	164	91	255

WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

- Forty percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 1998-2017 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-seven of the 255 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, 1998-2017**

Year	Handgun	Other Firearm	Knife	Blunt Instrument	Personal Weapon	Other or Unknown	Total
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	6	1	2		15
2012	1	6	6	1	2	4	20
2013		4	6	2	2		14
2014	1	5	5	1	4	3	19
2015	5	4	4	1	5	2	21
2016	5	4	4	3	2		18
2017	2	3	2	2	1	2	12
Total 1998-2017	38	63	53	21	47	33	255

- Firearms were used in 19 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-four percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Thirty-eight percent of homicides of males and 42 percent of homicides of females involved the use of firearms. See Table 8.
- Twenty-three 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, 1998-2017**

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun		38	38
Other Firearm	8	55	63
Knife	2	51	53
Blunt Instrument		21	21
Personal Weapon	20	27	47
Other or Unknown	13	20	33
Total 1998-2017	43	212	255

**Table 8
Homicide Victims
By Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1998-2017**

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	27	11	38
Other Firearm	36	27	63
Knife	37	16	53
Blunt Instrument	16	5	21
Personal Weapon	27	20	47
Other or Unknown	21	12	33
Total 1998-2017	164	91	255

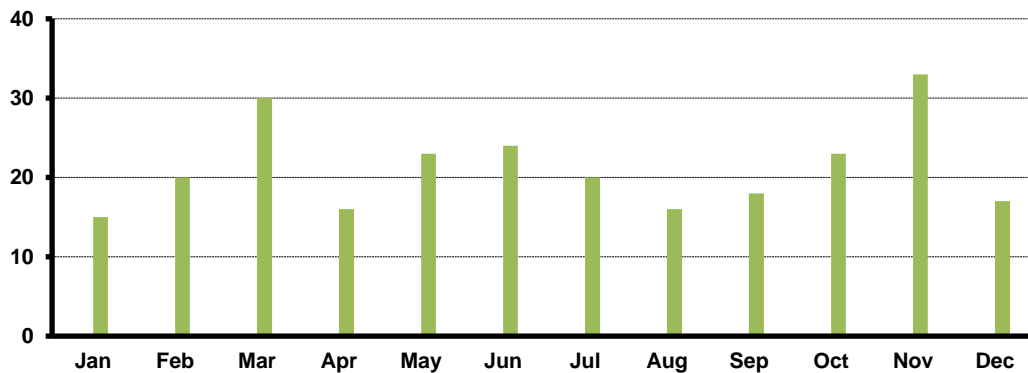
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

- During the period 1998-2017, the month of 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, 1998-2017

Month	Number	Percent of Total Homicides
January	15	5.9%
February	20	7.8
March	30	11.8
April	16	6.3
May	23	9.0
June	24	9.4
July	20	7.8
August	16	6.3
September	18	7.1
October	23	9.0
November	33	12.9
December	17	6.7
Total 1998-2017	255	100.0

Figure 2
Homicides by Month of Occurrence
North Dakota, 1998-2017



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 1998-2017, 45 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

**Table 10
Domestic Violence Deaths
North Dakota, 1998-2017**

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	No Assailant Identified	Homicide Total
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	12	1	19
2015	9	10	2	21
2016	2	13	3	18
2017	4	8		12
Total 1998-2017	115	127	13	255

- Persons killed in domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in non-domestic incidents.
- Forty-six percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 30 percent of female deaths in non-domestic violence incidents involved firearms.
- Seventy-seven 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, 1998-2017

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		13		25
Other Firearm	4	27	4	26
Knife	2	23		26
Blunt Instrument		9		10
Personal Weapon	15	8	4	18
Other or Unknown	8	6	4	10
Total 1998-2017	29	86	12	115

Table 12
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim
North Dakota, 1998-2017

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	3	10	24	1
Other Firearm	10	21	25	5
Knife	13	12	22	4
Blunt Instrument	5	4	10	
Personal Weapon	8	15	18	4
Other or Unknown	9	5	8	6
Total 1998-2017	48	67	107	20

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 National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) program, reflects law enforcement activity. If an arrest is made, the NIBRS program considers the case cleared. NIBRS data does not reflect the results of prosecution of assailants.
- The average clearance rate for homicides in North Dakota during the period from 1998 to 2017 is 94 percent.

Table 13
Clearance Rates for Homicides
North Dakota, 1998-2017

Year	Total Cleared	Total Homicides	North Dakota Clearance Rate	National Clearance Rate*
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	65
2015	18	21	86	62
2016	14	18	88	59
2017	11	12	92	Not Available

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

IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- During the period 1998-2017, 87 percent of the 255 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Fourteen homicides during 1998-2017 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

Table 14
Identified Homicide Assailants
By Gender
North Dakota, 1998-2017

Year	Male	Female	Total
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 *
2015	19	2	21 *
2016	15	2	17 *
2017	10	2	12 *
Total 1998-2017	225 (87%)	34 (13%)	259

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

- Ninety-eight percent of the total 259 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 259 assailants identified by law enforcement, 69 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, 1998-2017

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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 *
2015		21	21 *
2016		17	17 *
2017		12	12 *
Total 1998-2017	5 (2%)	254 (98%)	259

* 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, 1998-2017

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 10			0
11-15	1	1	2
16-20	30	4	34
21-25	52	9	61
26-30	42	8	50
31-35	30	3	33
36-40	12	2	14
41-45	19	4	23
46-50	18	1	19
51-55	9	1	10
56-60	6	1	7
61-65	3		3
Over 65	3		3
Total 1998-2017	225	34	259

WEAPONS AND IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS

- In homicide incidents involving firearms, adult 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, 1998-2017

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun		38	38
Other Firearm		55	55
Knife	1	61	62
Blunt Instrument		25	25
Personal Weapon	3	50	53
Other or Unknown	1	25	26
Total 1998-2017	5	254	259

Table 18
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1998-2017

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	38	0	38
Other Firearm	51	4	55
Knife	52	10	62
Blunt Instrument	24	1	25
Personal Weapon	43	10	53
Other or Unknown	17	9	26
Total 1998-2017	225	34	259

- 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.

Table 19
Identified Homicide Assailants
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
North Dakota, 1998-2017

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
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 *
2015	9	12	21 *
2016	2	15	17 *
2017	4	8	12 *
Total 1998-2017	116 (45%)	143 (55%)	259

* 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, 1998-2017

Weapon	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
Handgun	15	23	38
Other Firearm	28	27	55
Knife	23	39	62
Blunt Instrument	10	15	25
Personal Weapon	25	28	53
Other or Unknown	15	11	26
Total 1998-2017	116	143	259

Table 21
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant
North Dakota, 1998-2017

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		15		23
Other Firearm		28		27
Knife		23	1	38
Blunt Instrument		10		15
Personal Weapon	2	23	1	27
Other or Unknown	1	14		11
Total 1998-2017	3	113	2	141

Table 22
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant
North Dakota, 1998-2017

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	15		23	
Other Firearm	26	2	25	2
Knife	17	6	35	4
Blunt Instrument	10		14	1
Personal Weapon	16	9	27	1
Other or Unknown	6	9	11	
Total 1998-2017	90	26	135	8