

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

**Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report**

**Homicide in North Dakota, 2018**



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May 2019

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. (Any new data for prior years will be included in this report.)

## **HOMICIDE IN 2018**

- In 2018, seventeen homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 760,077, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 2.2 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 3 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Eleven of the homicide victims were male.
- **Victim Age:** Ten 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 2018.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of nine homicide victims.
- **Domestic Violence:** There were twelve homicides in 2018 resulting from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 10.
- **Assailant Gender:** Twelve of the fifteen 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, 2018**

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Weapons Used	Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
3/2/2018 Fargo	32	M	29	M	Personal Weapon	Acquaintance	Argument
4/18/2018 Bismarck	BB	F	22	M	Personal Weapon	Child	Other Circumstances Child Abuse Domestic Incident
5/3/2018 Grand Forks	6 10 14	F M M	35	F	Handgun	Child Child Child	Murder/Suicide Domestic Incident
5/5/2018 Fargo	NN	M	36	F	Personal Weapon	Child	Other Circumstances Child Abuse Domestic Incident
5/12/2018 Jamestown	25	F	27	M	Handgun	Ex-Spouse	Unknown Circumstances Domestic Incident
5/21/2018 Grand Forks	BB	F	18	M	Personal Weapon	Child of Girlfriend	Unknown Circumstances Domestic Incident
5/25/2018 Fort Berthold Reservation	29	M	26	M	Knife	Acquaintance	Argument
6/2/2018 Fargo	85	F	85	M	Handgun	Spouse	Other Circumstances Attempted Mercy Killing Domestic Incident
6/14/2018 Bismarck	35	M	35	M	Handgun	Acquaintance	Drug Dealing
7/31/2018 Rolette	26	M	49	M	Handgun	In-Law	Unknown Circumstances Domestic Incident
8/14/2018 Dickinson	91	F	66	F	Asphyxiation	Parent	Mercy Killing Domestic Incident
9/21/2018 Fargo	60	M	34	M	Firearm	Parent	Argument Domestic Incident
9/23/2018 Fargo	20	M	44	M	Handgun	Acquaintance	Other Circumstance
10/19/2018 Turtle Mountain Reservation	58	M	25	M	Personal Weapon Blunt Object	Acquaintance	Unknown Circumstance
11/16/2018 Stanley	BB	M	24	M	Personal Weapon	Child of Girlfriend	Other Circumstance Domestic Incident

## **HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES**

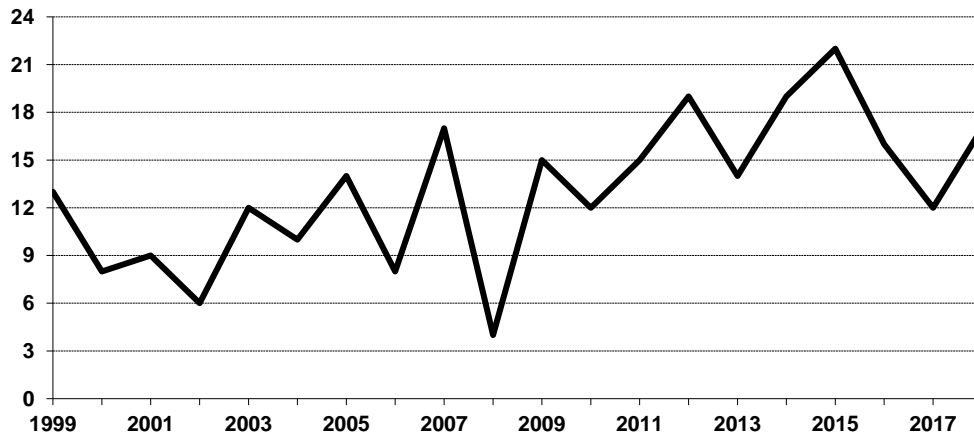
- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 1999-2018.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 13.

**Table 2  
Homicide Rate  
North Dakota, 1999-2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Homicide Total</b>	<b>Population Estimate</b>	<b>Rate/100,000 Population</b>
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 <sup>1</sup>	19	699,628	2.7
2013	14	723,393	1.9
2014	19	739,482	2.6
2015 <sup>1</sup>	22	756,927	2.9
2016 <sup>1</sup>	16	757,952	2.1
2017	12	755,393	1.6
2018	17	760,077	2.2

<sup>1</sup> Homicides have been revised throughout this report to reflect corrections.

**Figure 1  
Homicide in North Dakota  
1999-2018**



## **VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER**

- Sixty-four percent of the 262 total homicide victims during the period 1999-2018 were male.

**Table 3**  
**Gender of Homicide Victims**  
**North Dakota, 1999-2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
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	13	6	19
2013	9	5	14
2014	17	2	19
2015	16	6	21
2016	12	4	17
2017	7	5	12
2018	11	6	17
<b>Total 1999-2018</b>	<b>167 (64%)</b>	<b>95 (36%)</b>	<b>262</b>

## **VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE**

- Of the 262 homicides during the period 1999-2018, 82 percent were adults. See Table 4 below.
- Forty-two 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, 1999-2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
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	13	19
2013	2	12	14
2014	1	18	19
2015	4	18	22
2016		16	16
2017		12	12
2018	7	10	17
<b>Total 1999-2018</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>262</b>

**Table 5  
Homicide Victims  
By Age and Gender  
North Dakota, 1999-2018**

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 1 year	13	13	26
01-05	1	2	3
06-10	5	3	8
11-15	4		4
16-20	17	9	26
21-25	24	6	30
26-30	28	8	36
31-35	15	4	19
36-40	13	12	25
41-45	7	14	21
46-50	12	6	18
51-55	6	3	9
56-60	12	2	14
61-65	3	3	6
Over 65	7	10	17
Total 1999-2018	167	95	262



## **WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS**

- Forty-one percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 1999-2018 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.
- Fifty-one of the 262 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, 1999-2018**

<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>
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	3	19
2013		4	6	2	2		14
2014	1	5	5	1	4	3	19
2015	5	4	4	1	5	3	22
2016	5	4	4	1	2		16
2017	2	3	2	2	1	2	12
2018	8	1	1	1	5	1	17
<b>Total 1999-2018</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>262</b>

- Firearms were used in 23 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-five percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Forty percent of homicides of males and 43 percent of homicides of females involved the use of firearms. See Table 8.
- Twenty-two percent of homicides of males and 16 percent of homicides of females involved knives.

**Table 7  
Homicide Victims  
By Weapon and Age Category  
North Dakota, 1999-2018**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	3	43	46
Other Firearm	8	53	61
Knife	2	50	52
Blunt Instrument		20	20
Personal Weapon	24	28	52
Other or Unknown	11	20	31
<b>Total 1999-2018</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>262</b>

**Table 8  
Homicide Victims  
By Weapon and Gender  
North Dakota, 1999-2018**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	32	14	46
Other Firearm	34	27	61
Knife	37	15	52
Blunt Instrument	16	4	20
Personal Weapon	30	22	52
Other or Unknown	18	13	31
<b>Total 1999-2018</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>262</b>

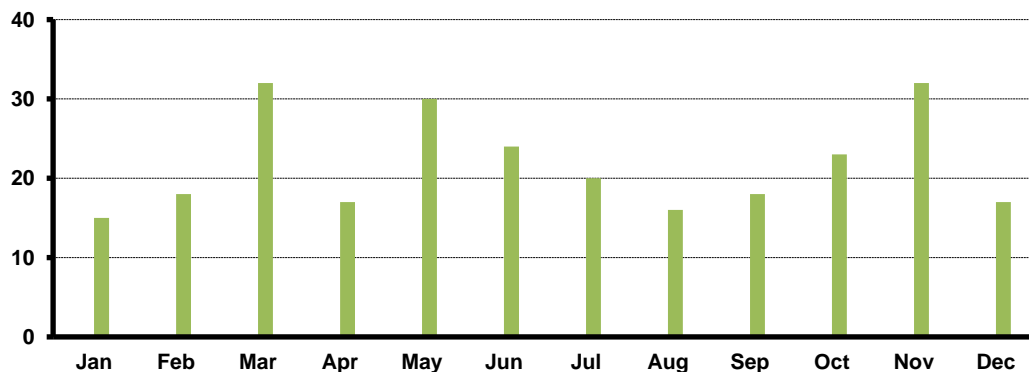
## **MONTH OF OCCURRENCE**

- During the period 1999-2018, 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, 1999-2018**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent of Total Homicides</b>
January	15	5.7%
February	18	6.9
March	32	12.2
April	17	6.5
May	30	11.5
June	24	9.2
July	20	7.6
August	16	6.1
September	18	6.9
October	23	8.8
November	32	12.2
December	17	6.5
Total 1999-2018	262	100.0

**Figure 2**  
**Homicides by Month of Occurrence**  
**North Dakota, 1999-2018**



## **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 1999-2018, 46 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

**Table 10  
Domestic Violence Deaths  
North Dakota, 1999-2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Non-Domestic</b>	<b>No Assailant Identified</b>	<b>Homicide Total</b>
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		19
2013	7	7		14
2014	6	12	1	19
2015	9	11	2	22
2016	2	14		16
2017	4	8		12
2018	12	5		17
<b>Total 1999-2018</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>262</b>

- Persons killed in non-domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in domestic incidents.
- Forty-eight 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, 1999-2018**

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun	3	16		27
Other Firearm	4	27	4	25
Knife	2	21		27
Blunt Instrument		9		11
Personal Weapon	19	8	4	19
Other or Unknown	6	6	4	11
Total 1999-2018	34	87	12	120

**Table 12**  
**Domestic Violence Deaths**  
**By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim**  
**North Dakota, 1999-2018**

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	6	13	26	1
Other Firearm	10	21	23	6
Knife	12	11	23	4
Blunt Instrument	5	4	11	
Personal Weapon	10	17	19	4
Other or Unknown	7	5	8	7
Total 1999-2018	50	71	110	22

## **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 1999 to 2018 is 95 percent.

**Table 13  
Clearance Rates for Homicides  
North Dakota, 1999-2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Cleared</b>	<b>Total Homicides</b>	<b>North Dakota Clearance Rate</b>	<b>National Clearance Rate*</b>
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	19	100	63
2013	14	14	100	64
2014	18	19	95	65
2015	20	22	91	62
2016	16	17	94	59
2017	11	12	92	62
2018	17	17	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 1999-2018, 87 percent of the 269 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Thirteen homicides during 1999-2018 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

**Table 14**  
**Identified Homicide Assailants**  
**By Gender**  
**North Dakota, 1999-2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
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	20	2	22 *
2016	17	2	19 *
2017	10	2	12 *
2018	12	3	15
<b>Total 1999-2018</b>	<b>235 (87%)</b>	<b>34 (13%)</b>	<b>269</b>

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

- Ninety-nine percent of the total 269 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 269 assailants identified by law enforcement, 68 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, 1999-2018**

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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		22	22 *
2016		19	19 *
2017		12	12 *
2018		15	15
Total 1999-2018	4 (1%)	265 (99%)	269

\* 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, 1999-2018**

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 10			0
11-15	1		1
16-20	31	4	35
21-25	54	7	61
26-30	44	8	52
31-35	31	5	36
36-40	13	2	15
41-45	20	4	24
46-50	19	1	20
51-55	9	1	10
56-60	6	1	7
61-65	3		3
Over 65	4	1	5
Total 1999-2018	235	34	269

## **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 or personal weapons.

**Table 17**  
**Identified Assailants**  
**By Type of Weapon and Age Category**  
**North Dakota, 1999-2018**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun		44	44
Other Firearm		55	55
Knife	1	60	61
Blunt Instrument		26	26
Personal Weapon	3	55	58
Other or Unknown		25	25
<b>Total 1999-2018</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>269</b>

**Table 18**  
**Identified Assailants**  
**By Type of Weapon and Gender**  
**North Dakota, 1999-2018**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	43	1	44
Other Firearm	52	3	55
Knife	51	10	61
Blunt Instrument	25	1	26
Personal Weapon	47	11	58
Other or Unknown	17	8	25
<b>Total 1999-2018</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>269</b>

- 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, 1999-2018**

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
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	13	22 *
2016	2	17	19 *
2017	4	8	12 *
2018	10	5	15
Total 1999-2018	120 (45%)	149 (55%)	269

\* 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, 1999-2018**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Non-Domestic</b>	<b>Total</b>
Handgun	19	25	44
Other Firearm	28	27	55
Knife	21	40	61
Blunt Instrument	10	16	26
Personal Weapon	29	29	58
Other or Unknown	13	12	25
<b>Total 1999-2018</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>269</b>

**Table 21**  
**Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents**  
**By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant**  
**North Dakota, 1999-2018**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Domestic</b>		<b>Non-Domestic</b>	
	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Adult</b>
Handgun		19		25
Other Firearm		28		27
Knife		21	1	39
Blunt Instrument		10		16
Personal Weapon	2	27	1	28
Other or Unknown		13		12
<b>Total 1999-2018</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>147</b>

**Table 22**  
**Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents**  
**By Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant**  
**North Dakota, 1999-2018**

<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	25	
Other Firearm	27	1	25	2
Knife	15	6	36	4
Blunt Instrument	10		15	1
Personal Weapon	19	10	28	1
Other or Unknown	5	8	12	
<b>Total 1999-2018</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>8</b>