STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report

Homicide in North Dakota, 2007



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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 2007

- In 2007, sixteen homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 640,000, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 2.5 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 3 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- Victim Gender: Six of the homicide victims were male.
- Victim Age: Twelve 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 2007.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of four homicide victims. In 3 homicides, the weapon involved was asphyxiation.
- **Domestic Violence:** Seven of the sixteen homicides in 2007 resulted from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 12.
- Assailant Gender: Thirteen of the fifteen identified assailants were male.
- Assailant Age: Thirteen of the fifteen 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, 2007

	North Dakota, 2007						
Date & Location of Incident	Victim Age	(s) Sex	Assailant Age	(s) Sex	Weapons Used	Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Circumstances
1/5/2007 Devils Lake	1	F	17	М	Personal Weapon	Acquaintance	Blunt force trauma
4/6/2007 Wells County	70 67	M F	28	M	.45-caliber Handgun	Acquaintance	Victims died of gunshot wounds and burned in home
4/29/2007 Minot	28	F	42	M	Asphyxiation	Girlfriend	Victim was strangled with a phone cord Domestic Violence
5/5/2007 Burke County	68	F	58	М	Firearm	Wife	Murder/Suicide Domestic Violence
5/12/2007 Fargo	18	F	26	М	Vehicle	Stranger	Hit-and-run
6/2/2007 Minot	18	F	Unknow	n			Victim killed in her apartment
7/14/2007 Fargo	16	F	15	М	Asphyxiation	Sister	Victim found dead in home Domestic Violence
7/29/2007 Minot	27	М	31	М	9 mm Handgun	Acquaintance	Victim shot in an alley
8/19/2007 Fargo	24	М	23	М	Knife	Acquaintance	Victim stabbed during a fight
9/15/2007 Valley City	1	М	26 18	M F	Other (Starvation)	Son	Victim found not breathing in crib Domestic Violence
10/27/2007 Grand Forks	38	М	23	М	Personal Weapon	Unknown	Beaten to death at a bar
11/02/2007 Bismarck	40	М	52	М	Personal Weapon	Friends	Argument
11/04/2007 Turtle Mt. Reservation	49	F	Unknown	М	Personal Weapon	Former Girlfriend	Beaten to death in home Domestic Violence
11/30/2007 Cass County	85	F	84	M	Knife	Wife	Wife died single knife wound Husband died multiple knife wounds Murder/Suicide Domestic Violence
12/06/2007 Bismarck	NN	F	26	F	Asphyxiation	Child	Domestic Violence

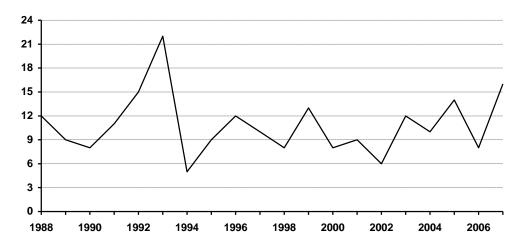
HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES

- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 1988-2007.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 11.

Table 2 Homicide Rate North Dakota, 1988-2007

Year	Homicide Total	Population Estimate	Rate/100,000 Population
1988	12	663,000	1.8
1989	9	660,000	1.4
1990	8	638,800	1.3
1991	11	635,000	1.7
1992	15	636,000	2.4
1993	22	635,000	3.5
1994	6	638,000	0.9
1995	9	641,000	1.4
1996	12	644,000	1.9
1997	10	641,000	1.6
1998	8	638,000	1.1
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	16	640,000	2.5

Figure 1 Homicide in North Dakota 1988-2007



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

• Fifty-seven percent of the 218 total homicide victims during the period 1988-2007 were male.

Table 3 Gender of Homicide Victims North Dakota, 1988-2007

Year	Male	Female	Total
1988	8	4	12
1989	4	5	9
1990	3	5	8
1991	4	7	11
1992	10	5	15
1993	15	7	22
1994	2	4	6
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	6	10	16
Total 1988-2007	124 (57%)	94 (43%)	218

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE

- Of the 218 homicides during the period 1988-2007, 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, 1988-2007

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
1988	1	11	12
1989	2	7	9
1990		8	8
1991	3	8	11
1992	3	12	15
1993	7	15	22
1994		6	6
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	12	16
Total 1988-2007	37	181	218

Table 5 Homicide Victims By Age and Gender North Dakota, 1988-2007

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 1 year	9	7	16
01-05	3	3	6
06-10	1	3	4
11-15	1	2	3
16-20	11	10	21
21-25	15	5	20
26-30	14	10	24
31-35	12	9	21
36-40	16	13	29
41-45	10	7	17
46-50	10`	10	20
51-55	6	2	8
56-60	2	2	4
61-65	2	2	4
Over 65	12	9	21
Total 1988-2007	124	94	218

WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

- Forty-five percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 1988-2007 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.
- Thirty-two of the 218 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, 1988-2007

Year	Handgun	Other Firearm	Knife	Blunt Instrument	Personal Weapon	Other or Unknown	Total
1988	9				2	1	12
1989	2	3	2		1	1	9
1990	3	1	2	1	1		8
1991		4	1	1		5	11
1992	2	6	4	2	1		15
1993	6	4	5	2	2	3	22
1994	1	2				3	6
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		6	4	16
Total 1988-2007	45	52	35	16	32	38	218

- Firearms were used in 27 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-eight percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Forty-two percent of homicides of males and 48 percent of homicides of females involved the use of firearms. See Table 8.
- Seventeen percent of homicides of males and 15 percent of homicides of females involved knives.

Table 7 Homicide Victims By Weapon and Age Category North Dakota, 1988-2007

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	3	42	45
Other Firearm	7	45	52
Knife		35	35
Blunt Instrument	1	15	16
Personal Weapon	12	20	32
Other or Unknown	14	24	38
Total 1988-2007	37	181	218

Table 8
Homicide Victims
By Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1988-2007

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	29	16	45
Other Firearm	23	29	52
Knife	21	14	35
Blunt Instrument	13	3	16
Personal Weapon	18	14	32
Other or Unknown	20	18	38
Total 1988-2007	124	94	218

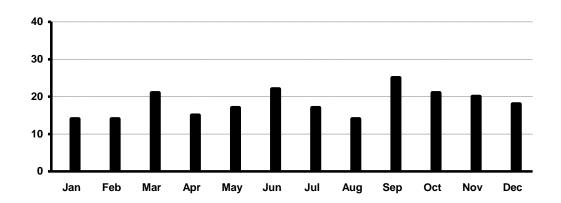
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

 During the period 1988-2007, the month of September had the highest number of deaths. See Table 9 below. Figure 2 illustrates this information graphically.

Table 9
Deaths Due to Homicide
By Month, 1988-2007

Month	Number	Percent of Total Homicides
January	14	6.4 %
February	14	6.4
March	21	9.6
April	15	6.9
May	17	7.8
June	22	10.1
July	17	7.8
August	14	6.4
September	25	11.5
October	21	9.6
November	20	9.2
December	18	8.3
Total 1988-2007	218	100.0

Figure 2 Homicides by Month of Occurrence North Dakota, 1988-2007



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 1988-2007, 53 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

Table 10 Domestic Violence Deaths North Dakota, 1988-2007

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	No Assailant Identified	Homicide Total
1988	6	5	1	12
1989	5	3	1	9
1990	5	3		8
1991	5	4	2	11
1992	11	4		15
1993	11	11		22
1994	4	1	1	6
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	5	2	9
2002	4	1	1	6
2003	8	4		12
2004	6	4		10
2005	6	6	2	14
2006	4	3	1	8
2007	7	8	1	16
Total 1988-2007	115	90	13	218

- Persons killed in domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in non-domestic incidents.
- Fifty-eight percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 22 percent of female deaths in non-domestic violence incidents involved firearms.
- Seventy-three percent of female homicide victims were killed in domestic violence incidents, compared to 37 percent of males.

Table 11
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Victim
North Dakota, 1988-2007

	Dome	estic	Non-Domestic	
Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		21	3	17
Other Firearm	7	34		11
Knife		19		15
Blunt Instrument	1	4		10
Personal Weapon	9	6	3	13
Other or Unknown	7	7	6	12
Total 1988-2007	24	91	12	78

Table 12
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim
North Dakota, 1988-2007

	Don	nestic	Non-Domestic		
Weapon	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Handgun	8	13	17	3	
Other Firearm	14	27	9	2	
Knife	10	9	10	5	
Blunt Instrument	2	3	10		
Personal Weapon	5	10	13	3	
Other or Unknown	7	7	8	10	
Total 1988-2007	46	69	67	23	

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 1988 to 2007 is 93 percent.

Table 13 Clearance Rates for Homicides North Dakota, 1988-2007

Year	Total Cleared	Total Homicides	North Dakota Clearance Rate	National Clearance Rate*
1988	11	12	92	70
1989	8	9	89	68
1990	8	8	100	67
1991	9	11	82	67
1992	15	15	100	65
1993	22	22	100	66
1994	5	6	83	64
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	7	9	78	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	16	94	Not Available

^{*} Clearance rates reported in annual <u>Crime in the United States</u> reports published by the FBI.

IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- During the period 1988-2007, 88 percent of the 216 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Thirteen homicides during 1988-2007 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

Table 14 Identified Homicide Assailants By Gender North Dakota, 1988-2007

Year	Male	Female	Total
1988	9	3	12 *
1989	8		8 *
1990	4	3	7
1991	8		8 *
1992	11	3	14
1993	17	3	20
1994	4	1	5 *
1995	19		19
1996	13	2	15
1997	8	1	9
1998	5	3	8
1999	9	2	11
2000	7	1	8 *
2001	9		9 *
2002	5		5 *
2003	9		9
2004	13	1	14
2005	12	1	13 *
2006	6	1	7 *
2007	13	2	15*
Total 1988-2007	189 (88%)	27 (12%)	216

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

- Eighty-eight percent of the total 216 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 216 assailants identified by law enforcement, 63 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, 1988-2007

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
1988		12	12 *
1989	2	6	8 *
1990		7	7
1991	1	7	8 *
1992	2	12	14
1993	3	17	20
1994		5	5 *
1995	13	6	19
1996	1	14	15
1997		9	9
1998	1	7	8
1999		11	11
2000		8	8 *
2001		9	9 *
2002		5	5 *
2003		9	9
2004		14	14
2005		13	13 *
2006		7	7 *
2007	2	13	15*
Total 1988-2007	25 (12%)	191 (88%)	216

^{*} 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, 1988-2007

Age	Male	Female	Total
01-05			0
06-10			0
11-15	12	2	14
16-20	35	2	37
21-25	40	6	46
26-30	27	3	30
31-35	19	5	24
36-40	16	4	20
41-45	12	4	16
46-50	7		7
51-55	4	1	5
56-60	9		9
61-65	2		2
Over 65	6		6
Total 1988-2007	189	27	216

WEAPONS AND IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS

- In homicide incidents involving firearms, juvenile assailants were much more likely to use firearms other than handguns. For adults, long guns were used equally as often as handguns.
- Male assailants were more likely to use firearms in homicide incidents, while females were more likely to use knives.
- For incidents involving the use of firearms, male assailants were more likely to use rifles or shotguns than handguns. Conversely, females were more likely to use handguns than other types of firearms.

Table 17
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Age Category
North Dakota, 1988-2007

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	1	39	40
Other Firearm	10	39	49
Knife	5	38	43
Blunt Instrument	3	16	19
Personal Weapon	3	30	33
Other or Unknown	3	29	32
Total 1988-2007	25	191	216

Table 18
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1988-2007

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	35	5	40
Other Firearm	46	3	49
Knife	33	10	43
Blunt Instrument	19		19
Personal Weapon	31	2	33
Other or Unknown	25	7	32
Total 1988-2007	189	27	216

- Forty-nine 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 domestic incidents than in nondomestic incidents. See Table 20.
- Knives were more likely to be used by assailants in non-domestic incidents.
- Seventy-eight percent of identified female assailants were involved in domestic incidents, compared to 45 percent for males. See Table 22.

Table 19
Identified Homicide Assailants
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
North Dakota, 1988-2007

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
1988	6	6	12 *
1989	4	4	8 *
1990	4	3	7
1991	4	4	8 *
1992	8	6	14
1993	8	12	20
1994	4	1	5 *
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	7	9 *
2002	4	1	5 *
2003	6	3	9
2004	6	8	14
2005	7	6	13 *
2006	4	3	7 *
2007	8	7	15*
Total 1988-2007	106 (49%)	110 (51%)	216

^{*} 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, 1988-2007

Weapon	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
Handgun	21	19	40
Other Firearm	31	18	49
Knife	19	24	43
Blunt Instrument	4	15	19
Personal Weapon	15	18	33
Other or Unknown	16	16	32
Total 1988-2007	106	110	216

Table 21
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant
North Dakota, 1988-2007

	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		21	1	18
Other Firearm	1	30	9	9
Knife	2	17	3	21
Blunt Instrument		4	3	12
Personal Weapon	1	14	2	16
Other or Unknown	1	15	2	14
Total 1988-2007	5	101	20	90

Table 22
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant
North Dakota, 1988-2007

	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
Weapon	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	18	3	17	2
Other Firearm	28	3	18	
Knife	11	8	22	2
Blunt Instrument	4		15	
Personal Weapon	13	2	18	
Other or Unknown	11	5	14	2
Total 1988-2007	85	21	104	6

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