STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report

Homicide in North Dakota, 2020



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2021

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 2020

- In 2020, thirty-two homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 765,309, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 4.2 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 4 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- Victim Gender: Twenty-two of the homicide victims were male.
- Victim Age: Twenty-eight 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 2020.
- Weapons: Firearms were involved in the deaths of fifteen homicide victims.
- **Domestic Violence:** There were twelve homicides in 2020 resulting from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 11.
- Assailant Gender: Twenty-five of the thirty identified assailants were male.
- Assailant Age: All 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 1Summary of Homicide IncidentsNorth Dakota, 2020

Date & Location	Victi	im(s)	Assai	lant(s)	Relationship of	Weapons Used	Circumstances
of Incident	Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Victim to Assailant	weapons used	
1/2/20 Burleigh SO	42	М	41	М	Otherwise Known	Shotgun	Other Circumstance Domestic Incident
1/12/20 Minot PD	29	М	27 24	M M	Otherwise Known Otherwise Known	Firearm	Argument
1/26/20 Grand Forks SO	15	М	32	F	Acquaintance	Handgun	Argument
3/1/20 Williston PD	40	М	24	М	Friend	Blunt Object Personal Weapon	Argument
3/12/20 Dickinson PD	39	М	44	М	Other Family Member	Handgun	Argument Domestic Incident
5/6/20 Spirit Lake Res.	5	М	42 45	M F	Foster parents	Personal weapon	Child abuse Domestic incident
5/8/20 Cass County SO	50	М	23	М	Neighbor	Handgun	Argument
5/12/20 Fargo PD	39	М	21 28	M M	Acquaintance Acquaintance	Firearm	Drug Dealing
5/13/20 Minot PD	21	М	22	м	Stepsibling	Firearm	Argument Domestic Incident
5/21/20 Minot PD	37	F	42	М	Spouse	Firearm	Unknown Circumstance Domestic Incident
5/25/20 Minot PD	43	М	56	М	Unknown	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Argument
5/27/20 Grand Forks PD	29 61	M F	41	М	Police Officer Parent	Rifle	Assault on a Police Office Domestic Incident
5/30/20 Fargo PD	27	М	32	F	Boyfriend	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Argument Domestic Incident
6/1/20 Mandan PD	53	М	47	М	Acquaintance	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Argument
6/8/20 Minot PD	22	F	25	М	Spouse	Personal Weapon Asphyxiation	Argument Domestic Incident
6/28/20 Cass County SO	31	М	25	М	Acquaintance	Personal Weapon	Argument
8/4/20 Fargo PD	18	М	25	М	Acquaintance	Blunt Object	Other Circumstances Drug Dealing
8/14/20 Ft. Berthold Res.	38	М	34	М	Friend	Firearm	Argument

Table 1- Continued Summary of Homicide Incidents North Dakota, 2020

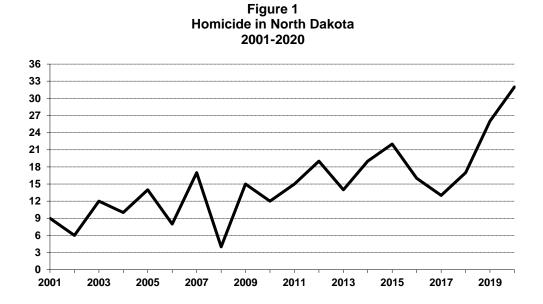
Date & Location	Vict	im(s)	Assail	ant(s)	Relationship of	Manual Inc.	Oireannatana
of Incident	Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Victim to Assailant	Weapons Used	Circumstances
8/22/20 Wells SO	27	Μ				Personal weapon Asphyxiation	Drug dealing
8/28/20 Fargo PD	41	Μ				Firearm	Unknown Circumstance Drive by shooting
8/30/20 Grand Forks PD	46	Μ	44	М	Otherwise Known	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Unknown Circumstance
9/19/20 Williston PD	34	F	29	М	Girlfriend	Personal Weapon	Domestic Incident
10/23/20 Burleigh SO	47	М	28	М	Otherwise Known	Handgun	Unknown Circumstance
11/02/20 Fargo PD	1	F	37	F	Babysittee	Personal Weapon	Other Circumstance Child Abuse
11/8/20 Ft. Berthold Res.	32	М				Firearm	Unknown Circumstance Drugs suspected
12/5/20 Grand Forks PD	55	М				Firearm	Unknown Circumstance
12/7/20 Fargo PD	37	F	27	М	Girlfriend	Personal Weapon	Argument Domestic Incident
12/14/20 Minot PD	16	F	32	М	Otherwise Known	Drugs/Sleeping Pills	Drug Dealing
12/20/20 Minot PD	29	F	28	М	Otherwise Known	Asphyxiation Other	Unknown Circumstance
12/21/20 Benson SO	33	М	34	F	Boyfriend	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Argument Other Circumstance Domestic Incident
12/22/20 Fargo PD	49	F	54	М	Girlfriend	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Unknown Circumstance Domestic Incident Murder/Suicide

HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES

- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 2001-2020.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 15.

Table 2 Homicide Rate North Dakota, 2001-2020

Year	Homicide Total	Population Estimate	Rate/100,000 Population
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	19	699,628	2.7
2013	14	723,393	1.9
2014	19	739,482	2.6
2015	22	756,927	2.9
2016	16	757,952	2.1
2017	13	755,393	1.7
2018	17	760,077	2.2
2019	26	762,062	3.4
2020	32	765,309	4.2



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

• Sixty-five percent of the 300 total homicide victims during the period 2001-2020 were male.

Year	Male	Female	Total
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	22
2016	12	4	16
2017	8	5	13
2018	11	6	17
2019	19	7	26
2020	22	10	32
Total 2001-2020	196 (65%)	104 (35%)	300

Table 3 Gender of Homicide Victims North Dakota, 2001-2020

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE

- Of the 300 homicides during the period 2001-2020, 83 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.

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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		13	13
2018	7	10	17
2019	2	24	26
2020	4	28	32
Total 2001-2020	52	248	300

Table 4Homicide VictimsJuvenile and AdultNorth Dakota, 2001-2020

Table 5Homicide VictimsBy Age and GenderNorth Dakota, 2001-2020

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 1 year	14	12	26
01-05	1	4	35
06-10	5	3	8
11-15	5		5
16-20	18	10	28
21-25	25	8	33
26-30	30	10	40
31-35	19	4	23
36-40	17	13	30
41-45	11	12	23
46-50	19	7	26
51-55	9	4	13
56-60	13	3	16
61-65	4	3	7
Over 65	6	11	17
Total 2001-2020	196	104	300

WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

- Forty-one percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 2001-2020 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-nine of the 300 total homicide deaths involved the use of "personal weapons." Personal weapons include the use of hands, fists and feet as weapons.

Year	Handgun	Other Firearm	Knife	Blunt Instrument	Personal Weapon	Other or Unknown	Total
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	4	2	2	1	2	13
2018	8	1	1	1	5	1	17
2019	5	4	7	2	4	4	26
2020	4	11	6	2	5	4	32
Total 2001-2020	52	72	60	22	59	35	300

Table 6 Weapons of Homicide North Dakota, 2001-2020

*One weapon per incident is recognized on this chart.

- Firearms were used in 21 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-six percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Forty-three percent of homicides of males and 38 percent of homicides of females involved the use of firearms. See Table 8.
- Twenty-one percent of homicides of males and 17 percent of homicides of females involved knives.

Table 7 Homicide Victims By Weapon and Age Category North Dakota, 2001-2020

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	4	48	52
Other Firearm	7	65	72
Knife	2	58	60
Blunt Instrument		22	22
Personal Weapon	27	32	59
Other or Unknown	12	23	35
Total 2001-2020	52	248	300

Table 8Homicide VictimsBy Weapon and GenderNorth Dakota, 2001-2020

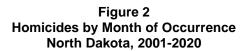
Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	39	13	52
Other Firearm	46	26	72
Knife	42	18	60
Blunt Instrument	18	4	22
Personal Weapon	33	26	59
Other or Unknown	18	17	35
Total 2001-2020	196	104	300

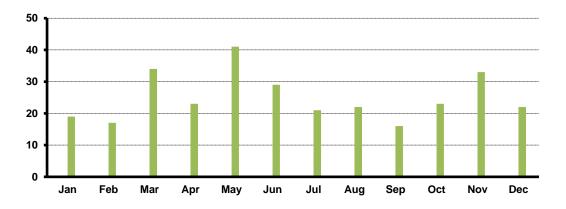
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

• During the period 2001-2020, the month of May had the highest number of homicide deaths. See Table 9 below. Figure 2 illustrates this information graphically.

Month	Number	Percent of Total Homicides
January	19	6.3%
February	17	5.7
March	34	11.3
April	23	7.7
May	41	13.7
June	29	9.7
July	21	7.0
August	22	7.3
September	16	5.3
October	23	7.7
November	33	11.0
December	22	7.3
Total 2001-2020	300	100.0

Table 9 Deaths Due to Homicide By Month, 2001-2020





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 2001-2020, 43 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	No Assailant Identified	Homicide Total
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	9		13
2018	12	5		17
2019	10	16		26
2020	12	16	4	32
Total 2001-2020	130	158	12	300

Table 10Domestic Violence DeathsNorth Dakota, 2001-2020

- Persons killed in non-domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in domestic incidents.
- Forty-two percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 26 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 29 percent of males.

	Dom	estic	Non-Domestic		
Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	
Handgun	3	16	1	32	
Other Firearm	3	30	4	31	
Knife	2	21		35	
Blunt Instrument		8		14	
Personal Weapon	21	11	5	21	
Other or Unknown	6	9	5	10	
Total 2001-2020	35	95	15	143	

Table 11Domestic Violence DeathsBy Type of Weapon and Age Category of VictimNorth Dakota, 2001-2020

Table 12 Domestic Violence Deaths By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim North Dakota, 2001-2020

	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
Weapon	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	7	12	32	1
Other Firearm	11	20	29	6
Knife	13	12	29	6
Blunt Instrument	4	4	14	
Personal Weapon	11	21	21	5
Other or Unknown	8	7	6	9
Total 2001-2020	54	76	131	27

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 2001 to 2020 is 95 percent.

Year	Total Cleared	Total Homicides	North Dakota Clearance Rate	National Clearance Rate*
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	16	100	59
2017	12	13	92	62
2018	17	17	100	62
2019	26	26	100	61
2020	28	32	88	Not Available

Table 13 Clearance Rates for Homicides North Dakota, 2001-2020

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

IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- During the period 2001-2020, 88 percent of the 305 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Fourteen homicides during 2001-2020 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

Year	Male	Female	Total
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	11	2	13 *
2018	12	3	15
2019	22	2	24
2020	25	5	30 *
Total 2001-2020	267 (88%)	38 (12%)	305

Table 14 Identified Homicide Assailants By Gender North Dakota, 2001-2020

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

- Ninety-eight percent of the total 305 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 305 assailants identified by law enforcement, 67 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.

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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		13	13 *
2018		15	15
2019	2	22	24
2020		30	30 *
Total 2001-2020	6 (2%)	299 (98%)	305

Table 15 Identified Homicide Assailants Juvenile and Adult North Dakota, 2001-2020

* 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, 2001-2020

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 10			0
11-15	2		2
16-20	33	5	38
21-25	60	7	67
26-30	49	8	57
31-35	34	8	42
36-40	15	2	17
41-45	28	5	33
46-50	19	1	20
51-55	9		9
56-60	7	1	8
61-65	5		5
Over 65	6	1	7
Total 2001-2020	267	38	305

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 personal weapons or knives.

Table 17 Identified Assailants By Type of Weapon and Age Category North Dakota, 2001-2020

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	1	50	51
Other Firearm	1	64	65
Knife	1	64	65
Blunt Instrument		28	28
Personal Weapon	3	64	67
Other or Unknown		29	29
Total 2001-2020	6	299	305

Table 18 Identified Assailants By Type of Weapon and Gender North Dakota, 2001-2020

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	49	2	51
Other Firearm	62	3	65
Knife	54	11	65
Blunt Instrument	27	1	28
Personal Weapon	54	13	67
Other or Unknown	21	8	29
Total 2001-2020	267	38	305

- Forty-three 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.

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
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	9	13 *
2018	10	5	15
2019	10	14	24
2020	13	17	30 *
Total 2001-2020	131 (43%)	174 (57%)	305

Table 19 Identified Homicide Assailants Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents North Dakota, 2001-2020

* 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, 2001-2020

Weapon	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
Handgun	19	32	51
Other Firearm	31	34	65
Knife	21	44	65
Blunt Instrument	9	19	28
Personal Weapon	35	32	67
Other or Unknown	16	13	29
Total 2001-2020	131	174	305

Table 21 Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant North Dakota, 2001-2020

	Domestic		Non-Do	omestic
Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		19	1	31
Other Firearm	1	30		34
Knife		21	1	43
Blunt Instrument		9		19
Personal Weapon	2	33	1	31
Other or Unknown		16		13
Total 2001-2020	3	128	3	171

Table 22Domestic/Non-Domestic IncidentsBy Type of Weapon and Gender of AssailantNorth Dakota, 2001-2020

	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
Weapon	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	18	1	31	1
Other Firearm	30	1	32	2
Knife	15	6	39	5
Blunt Instrument	9		18	1
Personal Weapon	24	11	30	2
Other or Unknown	8	8	13	
Total 2001-2020	104	27	163	11