

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

Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report

Homicide in North Dakota, 2022



**Attorney General
Drew H. Wrigley**

Report prepared by
Colleen Weltz
Bureau of Criminal Investigation

2023

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 2022

- In 2022, thirty homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 779,261, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 3.9 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 3 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Twenty-four 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 2022.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of eighteen homicide victims.
- **Domestic Violence:** There were eleven homicides in 2022 resulting from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 10.
- **Assailant Gender:** Eighteen of the twenty-two identified assailants were male.
- **Assailant Age:** One identified assailants was a juvenile.
- 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, 2022**

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Weapons Used	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
2/18/22 Bismarck PD	5	M	40	F	Other Family Member	Unknown	Child Abuse Unknown Circumstance Domestic Incident
2/24/22 Minot PD	42	M	34	M	Otherwise Known	Firearm Personal Weapon	Other Circumstance
3/21/22 Mandan PD	77	M	39	M	Stranger	Motor Vehicle	Unknown Circumstance Intentional Hit-n-Run
3/23/22 Bismarck PD	22	M	26	M	Acquaintance	Firearm	Unknown Circumstance
4/21/22 Minot PD	22	M	24	F	Former Boyfriend	Firearm	Argument Domestic Incident
5/3/22 Spirt Lake Res	54	M				Knife/Cutting Instrument	Argument
5/7/22 Bismarck PD	70	F	39	M	Parent	Personal Weapon	Other Circumstance Domestic Incident
5/18/22 Fargo PD	21	F	24	M	Girlfriend	Handgun	Argument Other Circumstance Murder/Suicide Domestic Incident
5/24/22 Grand Forks PD	67	M	39	M	Acquaintance	Blunt Object	Unknown Circumstance
6/19/22 Williams SO	25	F	58	M	Acquaintance	Handgun	Unknown Circumstance
7/29/22 Morton SO	26	M	19	M	Acquaintance	Handgun	Argument
8/13/22 Fargo PD	53	M	58	M	Stanger	Personal Weapon	Argument
8/23/22 Bismarck PD	25	M	45	F	Child	Handgun	Murder/Suicide Domestic Incident
8/29/22 Towner SO	34 64 56	M M M	59	M	Child Sibling Employer	Handgun	Murder/Suicide Domestic Incident
9/18/22 Foster SO	18	M	41	M	Relationship Unknown	Motor Vehicle	Other Circumstance

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Weapons Used	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
9/23/22 Bismarck PD	28	M	16	M	Unknown	Handgun	Unknown Circumstance
9/23/22 Morton SO	65	M				Knife/Cutting Instrument	Unknown Circumstance
9/26/22 Carrington PD	5M	M	47	F	Babysittee	Personal Weapon	Other Circumstance
9/29/22 Spirit Lake Res	19 20	M M				Knife/Cutting Instrument	Argument
10/4/22 Bismarck PD	39	M	27	M	Acquaintance	Firearm	Unknown Circumstance
10/26/22 Grand Forks PD	53	F	21	M	Parent	Handgun	Murder/Suicide Domestic Incident
10/30/22 Fargo PD	32	M	38	M	Acquaintance	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Unknown Circumstance
11/19/22 Fargo PD	28 27	M M				Handgun	Unknown Circumstance
12/14/22 Williams SO	30	F	34	M	Girlfriend	Handgun	Domestic Incident
12/20/22 Williston PD	59	F	48	M	Spouse	Firearm	Domestic Incident Murder/Suicide
12/30/22 Minot PD	36	M	34	M	Stranger	Handgun	Argument

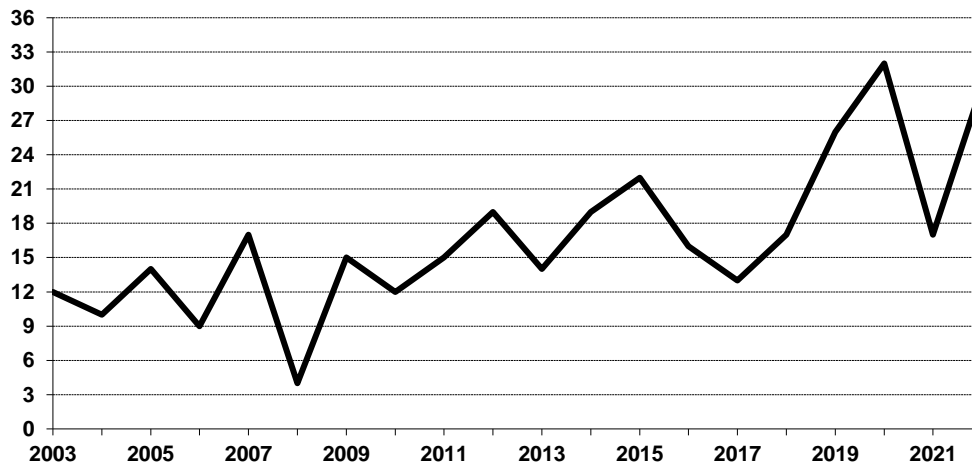
HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES

- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 2003-2022.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 16.7.

**Table 2
Homicide Rate
North Dakota, 2003-2022**

Year	Homicide Total	Population Estimate	Rate/100,000 Population
2003	12	634,000	1.9
2004	10	634,500	1.6
2005	14	637,000	2.2
2006	9	636,000	1.4
2007	17	640,000	2.7
2008	4	641,500	0.6
2009	15	647,000	2.3
2010	12	672,591	1.8
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
2021	17	774,948	2.2
2022	30	779,261	3.9

**Figure 1
Homicide in North Dakota
2003-2022**



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- Sixty-six percent of the 333 total homicide victims during the period 2003-2022 were male.

Table 3
Gender of Homicide Victims
North Dakota, 2003-2022

Year	Male	Female	Total
2003	6	6	12
2004	7	3	10
2005	8	6	14
2006	4	5	9
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
2021	10	7	17
2022	24	6	30
Total 2003-2022	221 (66%)	112 (34%)	333

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE

- Of the 333 homicides during the period 2003-2022, 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, 2003-2022**

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
2003	2	10	12
2004	3	7	10
2005	2	12	14
2006	3	6	9
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
2021	2	15	17
2022	2	28	30
Total 2003-2022	55	278	333

**Table 5
Homicide Victims
By Age and Gender
North Dakota, 2003-2022**

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 1 year	14	13	27
01-05	2	3	5
06-10	5	3	8
11-15	5	1	6
16-20	21	10	31
21-25	27	10	37
26-30	35	12	47
31-35	21	5	26
36-40	21	12	33
41-45	13	11	24
46-50	17	8	25
51-55	12	6	18
56-60	14	3	17
61-65	5	4	9
Over 65	9	11	20
Total 2003-2022	221	112	333

WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

- Forty-four percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 2003-2022 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.
- Sixty of the 333 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, 2003-2022**

Year	Handgun	Other Firearm	Knife	Blunt Instrument	Personal Weapon	Other or Unknown	Total
2003	4	7			1		12
2004		5		1	1	3	10
2005	2	1	1	2	5	3	14
2006	1		4		2	2	9
2007	4		3	1	6	3	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
2021	7	6	1		2	1	17
2022	13	5	5	1	3	3	30
Total 2003-2022	69	79	66	22	60	37	333

*One weapon per incident is recognized on this chart.

- Firearms were used in 22 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-nine percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Forty-six percent of homicides of males and 42 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, 2003-2022**

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	4	66	70
Other Firearm	8	70	78
Knife	3	63	66
Blunt Instrument		22	22
Personal Weapon	26	34	60
Other or Unknown	14	23	37
Total 2003-2022	55	278	333

**Table 8
Homicide Victims
By Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 2003-2022**

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	49	21	70
Other Firearm	52	26	78
Knife	47	19	66
Blunt Instrument	18	4	22
Personal Weapon	34	26	60
Other or Unknown	21	16	37
Total 2003-2022	221	112	333

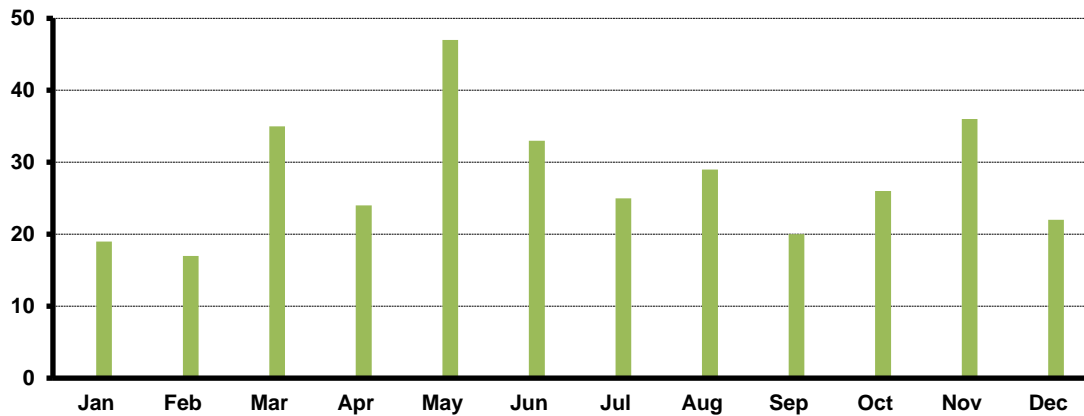
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

- During the period 2003-2022, the month of May 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, 2003-2022

Month	Number	Percent of Total Homicides
January	19	5.7%
February	17	5.1
March	35	10.5
April	24	7.2
May	47	14.1
June	33	9.9
July	25	7.5
August	29	8.7
September	20	6.0
October	26	7.8
November	36	10.8
December	22	6.6
Total 2003-2022	333	100.0

Figure 2
Homicides by Month of Occurrence
North Dakota, 2003-2022



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 2003-2022, 42 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

**Table 10
Domestic Violence Deaths
North Dakota, 2003-2022**

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	No Assailant Identified	Homicide Total
2003	8	4		12
2004	6	4		10
2005	6	7	1	14
2006	4	4	1	9
2007	7	10		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	15	14	3	32
2021	3	13	1	17
2022	11	16	3	30
Total 2003-2022	141	179	13	333

- Persons killed in non-domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in domestic incidents.
- Forty-four percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 35 percent of female deaths in non-domestic violence incidents involved firearms.
- Seventy-two percent of female homicide victims were killed in domestic violence incidents, compared to 29 percent of males.

Table 11
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Victim
North Dakota, 2003-2022

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun	3	25	1	38
Other Firearm	3	32	5	35
Knife	2	21	1	39
Blunt Instrument		7		15
Personal Weapon	19	12	6	22
Other or Unknown	7	10	6	11
Total 2003-2022	34	107	19	160

Table 12
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim
North Dakota, 2003-2022

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	11	17	35	4
Other Firearm	16	19	33	7
Knife	11	12	33	7
Blunt Instrument	3	4	15	
Personal Weapon	10	21	23	5
Other or Unknown	9	8	9	8
Total 2003-2022	60	81	148	31

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 2003 to 2022 is 95 percent.

Table 13
Clearance Rates for Homicides
North Dakota, 2003-2022

Year	Total Cleared	Total Homicides	North Dakota Clearance Rate	National Clearance Rate*
2003	12	12	100	62
2004	10	10	100	63
2005	13	14	86	62
2006	8	9	88	61
2007	17	17	100	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	54
2021	16	17	94	Not Available
2022	22	30	73	Not Available

* Clearance rates reported in annual [Crime in the United States](#) reports published by the FBI.

IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- During the period 2003-2022, 87 percent of the 330 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Eighteen homicides during 2003-2022 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

**Table 14
Identified Homicide Assailants
By Gender
North Dakota, 2003-2022**

Year	Male	Female	Total
2003	9		9
2004	13	1	14
2005	13	1	14 *
2006	7	1	8 *
2007	14	4	18
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 *
2021	16	1	17 *
2022	18	4	22*
Total 2003-2022	286 (87%)	44 (13%)	330

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

- Ninety-eight percent of the total 330 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 330 assailants identified by law enforcement, 66 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, 2003-2022

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
2003		9	9
2004		14	14
2005		14	14 *
2006		8	8 *
2007	3	15	18
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 *
2021		17	17 *
2022	1	21	22*
Total 2003-2022	7 (2%)	323 (98%)	330

* 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, 2003-2022

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 10			0
11-15	2		2
16-20	29	5	34
21-25	61	8	69
26-30	55	8	63
31-35	42	9	51
36-40	18	3	21
41-45	29	6	35
46-50	19	2	21
51-55	9		9
56-60	10	2	12
61-65	6		6
Over 65	6	1	7
Total 2003-2022	286	44	330

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, 2003-2022

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	2	61	63
Other Firearm	1	71	72
Knife	1	64	65
Blunt Instrument		28	28
Personal Weapon	3	66	69
Other or Unknown		33	33
Total 2003-2022	7	323	330

Table 18
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 2003-2022

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	60	3	63
Other Firearm	68	4	72
Knife	53	12	65
Blunt Instrument	27	1	28
Personal Weapon	55	14	69
Other or Unknown	23	10	33
Total 2003-2022	286	44	330

- Forty-two 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, 2003-2022

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
2003	6	3	9
2004	6	8	14
2005	7	7	14 *
2006	4	4	8 *
2007	9	9	18
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	14	16	30 *
2021	3	14	17 *
2022	9	13	22 *
Total 2003-2022	138 (42%)	192 (58%)	330

* 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, 2003-2022

Weapon	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
Handgun	26	37	63
Other Firearm	31	41	72
Knife	21	44	65
Blunt Instrument	8	20	28
Personal Weapon	34	35	69
Other or Unknown	18	15	33
Total 2003-2022	138	192	330

Table 21
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant
North Dakota, 2003-2022

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		26	2	35
Other Firearm	1	30		41
Knife		21	1	43
Blunt Instrument		8		20
Personal Weapon	2	32	1	34
Other or Unknown		18		15
Total 2003-2022	3	135	4	188

Table 22
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant
North Dakota, 2003-2022

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	24	2	36	1
Other Firearm	29	2	39	2
Knife	15	6	38	6
Blunt Instrument	8		19	1
Personal Weapon	23	11	32	3
Other or Unknown	9	9	14	1
Total 2003-2022	108	30	178	14