

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

Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report

Homicide in North Dakota, 2023



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2024

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 2023

- In 2023, twenty-four homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 783,926*, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 3.1 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 4 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Eighteen of the homicide victims were male
- **Victim Age:** Twenty-one 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 2023.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of 14 homicide victims.
- **Domestic Violence:** There were five homicides in 2023 resulting from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 11.
- **Assailant Gender:** Thirty of the thirty-two identified assailants were male.
- **Assailant Age:** 26 identified assailants were adults. 6 were 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.

*State population estimate provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Table 1
Summary of Homicide Incidents
North Dakota, 2023**

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Weapons Used	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
01/16/2023 Wahpeton PD	40	M	33	M	Unknown	Firearm	Other Circumstances Unknown Circumstances
01/30/2023 Minot PD	38	M	32	M	Acquaintance	Handgun	Argument
02/17/2023 Minot PD	57	M	33	M	Acquaintance	Personal Weapons	Unknown Circumstances
03/22/2023 Watford City PD	32	F	30	M	Boyfriend/Girlfriend	Handgun	Unknown Circumstances Domestic Incident
03/30/2023 Beulah PD	22	M	38	M	Unknown	Handgun	Argument
04/12/2023 ND Highway Patrol	31	M	28	F	Stranger	Motor Vehicle/Vessel	Other Circumstances
05/04/2023 Standing Rock Reservation	26	M	15 15 16 16 17 17 18 20	M M M M M M M M	Acquaintance Acquaintance Acquaintance Acquaintance Acquaintance Acquaintance Acquaintance Acquaintance	Personal Weapons	Gangland
05/12/2023 ND Highway Patrol	40	M	49	M	Stranger	Motor Vehicle/Vessel	Other Circumstances
05/14/2023 Minot PD	32	M	40	M	Stranger	Handgun	Argument
05/22/2023 Fargo PD	16	M	31 19	M M	Otherwise Known Otherwise Known	Handgun	Drug Dealing
05/27/2023 ND Highway Patrol	31	F	21	M	Friend	Motor Vehicle/Vessel	Other Circumstances Other Negligent Killings
06/25/2023 Bismarck PD	16	F	19	M	Acquaintance	Handgun	Unknown Circumstances
07/05/2023 McKenzie County SO	17	F	66	M	Child	Handgun	Argument Domestic Incident
07/14/2023 Fargo PD	23	M	37	M	On-Duty Peace Officer	Firearm	Assault on Law Enforcement Officer(s)

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Weapons Used	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
08/10/2023 West Fargo PD	30	F	31	M	Spouse	Personal Weapons	Other Circumstances Domestic Incident
09/04/2023 Minot PD	51	M	47	F	Boyfriend/Girlfriend	Poison	Other Circumstances Domestic Incident
09/12/2023 McKenzie County SO	62	F	35	M	Parent	Fire/Incendiary Device	Other Circumstances
09/23/2023 Bismarck PD	21 35	M M	21 35	M M	Stranger Stranger	Handgun	Argument
10/09/2023 Minot PD	34	M	23	M	Unknown	Handgun	Argument Other Circumstances
11/17/2023 Minot PD	29	M	30	M	Unknown	Firearm	Argument
11/19/2023 Spirit Lake Reservation	34	M	21	M	Acquaintance	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Argument
12/06/2023 ND Highway Patrol	53	M	42	M	On-Duty Peace Officer	Motor Vehicle/Vessel	Other Circumstances
12/24/2023 Minot PD	41	M	39	M	Acquaintance	Handgun	Unknown Circumstances Domestic Incident

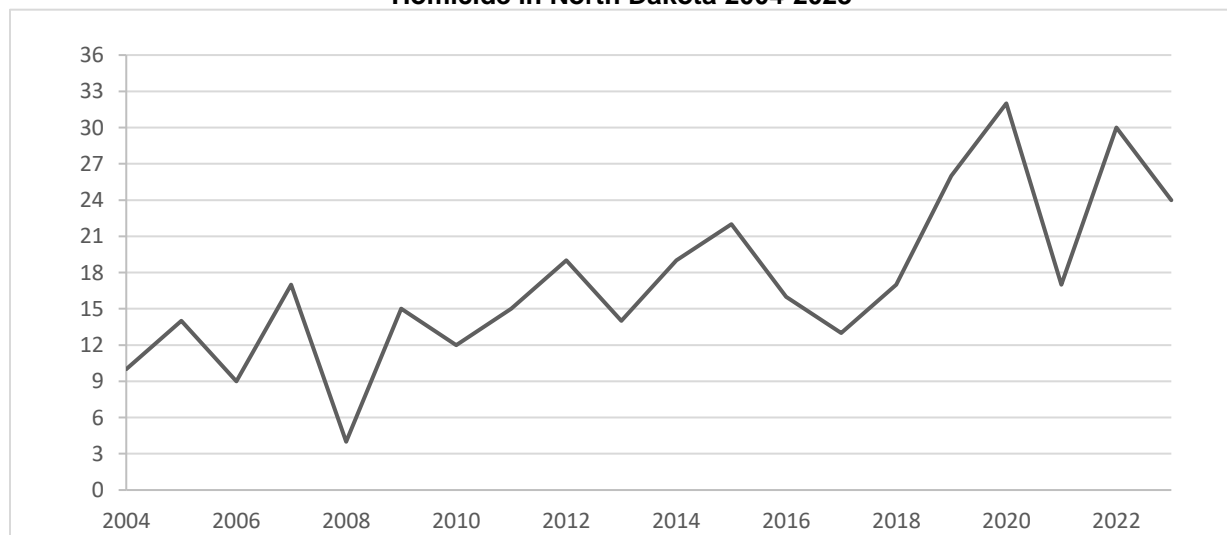
HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES

- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 2004-2023.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 17.3.

**Table 2
Homicide Rate
North Dakota, 2004-2023**

Year	Homicide Total	Population Estimate	Rate/100,000 Population
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	31	779,261	4.0
2023	24	783,926	3.1

**Figure 1
Homicide in North Dakota 2004-2023**



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- Sixty-eight percent of the 346 total homicide victims during the period 2004-2023 were male.

Table 3
Gender of Homicide Victims
North Dakota, 2004-2023

Year	Male	Female	Total
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	25	6	31
2023	18	6	24
Total 2003-2022	234 (68%)	112 (32%)	346

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE

- Of the 346 homicides during the period 2004-2023, 84 percent were adults. See Table 4 below.
- Over forty-four 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, 2004-2023**

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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	0	16	16
2017	0	13	13
2018	7	10	17
2019	2	24	26
2020	4	28	32
2021	2	15	17
2022	3	28	31
2023	3	21	24
Total 2003-2022	57	289	346

**Table 5
Homicide Victims
By Age and Gender
North Dakota, 2004-2023**

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 1 year	14	13	27
01-05	2	3	5
06-10	5	3	8
11-15	6	1	7
16-20	20	10	30
21-25	30	10	40
26-30	36	13	49
31-35	25	6	31
36-40	22	12	34
41-45	14	9	23
46-50	16	8	24
51-55	14	6	20
56-60	15	3	18
61-65	5	5	10
Over 65	9	11	20
Total 2004-2023	233	113	346

WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

- Forty-four percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 2004-2023 resulted from firearm use. See Table 6 below.
- In homicides involving firearms, the weapon was more likely to be handgun than a long gun.
- Sixty-one of the 346 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, 2004-2023**

Year	Handgun	Other Firearm	Knife	Blunt Instrument	Personal Weapon	Other or Unknown	Total
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	4	31
2023	12	3	1	0	2	6	24
Total 2004-2023	77	75	67	22	61	44	346

*One weapon per incident is recognized on this chart.

- Firearms were used in 25 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-seven percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Forty-six percent of homicides of males and 39 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, 2004-2023**

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	7	70	77
Other Firearm	7	67	74
Knife	3	64	67
Blunt Instrument	0	22	22
Personal Weapon	25	37	62
Other or Unknown	15	29	44
Total 2004-2023	57	289	346

**Table 8
Homicide Victims
By Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 2004-2023**

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	54	23	77
Other Firearm	53	21	74
Knife	48	19	67
Blunt Instrument	18	4	22
Personal Weapon	35	27	62
Other or Unknown	26	18	44
Total 2004-2023	234	112	346

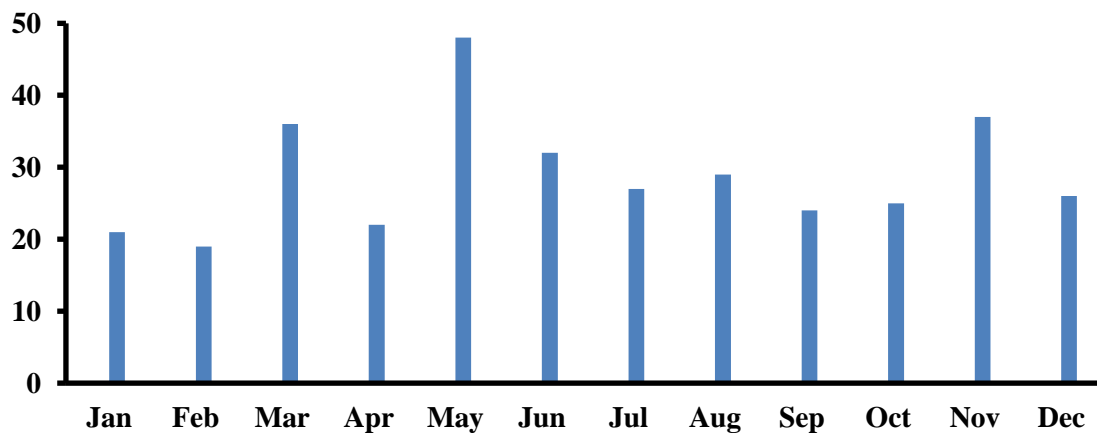
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

- During the period 2004-2023, 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, 2004-2023

Month	Number	Percent of Total Homicides
January	21	6.1%
February	19	5.5
March	36	10.4
April	22	6.4
May	48	13.9
June	32	9.2
July	27	7.8
August	29	8.4
September	24	6.9
October	25	7.2
November	37	10.7
December	26	7.5
Total 2004-2023	346	100.0

Figure 2
Homicides by Month of Occurrence
North Dakota, 2004-2023



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 2004-2023, 40 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

**Table 10
Domestic Violence Deaths
North Dakota, 2004-2023**

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	No Assailant Identified	Homicide Total
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	17	3	31
2023	5	19		24
Total 2004-2023	138	195	13	346

- Persons killed in non-domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in domestic incidents.
- Forty-one percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 34 percent of female deaths in non-domestic violence incidents involved firearms.
- Seventy-one percent of female homicide victims were killed in domestic violence incidents, compared to 27 percent of males.

Table 11
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Victim
North Dakota, 2004-2023

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun	4	25	3	42
Other Firearm	2	27	5	37
Knife	2	21	1	40
Blunt Instrument		7		15
Personal Weapon	19	13	5	24
Other or Unknown	7	12	7	15
Total 2004-2023	34	105	21	173

Table 12
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim
North Dakota, 2004-2023

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	11	18	40	5
Other Firearm	14	15	36	6
Knife	11	12	34	7
Blunt Instrument	3	4	15	
Personal Weapon	10	22	24	5
Other or Unknown	10	9	13	9
Total 2004-2023	59	80	162	32

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 2004 to 2023 is 94 percent.

**Table 13
Clearance Rates for Homicides
North Dakota, 2004-2023**

Year	Total Cleared	Total Homicides	North Dakota Clearance Rate	National Clearance Rate*
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	23	31	74	Not Available
2023	18	24	75	Not Available

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

IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- During the period 2004-2023, 87 percent of the 354 identified homicide assailants were male.

Table 14
Identified Homicide Assailants
By Gender
North Dakota, 2004-2023

Year	Male	Female	Total
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	5	23
2023	30	2	32
Total 2004-2023	307 (87%)	47 (13%)	354

- Ninety-six percent of the total 354 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 354 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, 2004-2023

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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	22	23*
2023	6	26	32
Total 2004-2023	13 (4%)	341 (96%)	354

* 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, 2004-2023

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 10			0
11-15	4		4
16-20	34	5	39
21-25	62	8	70
26-30	57	9	66
31-35	49	10	59
36-40	21	3	24
41-45	29	6	35
46-50	20	3	23
51-55	9		9
56-60	9	2	11
61-65	6		6
Over 65	7	1	8
Total 200-2023	307	47	354

WEAPONS AND IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS

- In homicide incidents involving firearms, adult assailants were more likely to use handguns other than other firearms.
- 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, 2004-2023

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	2	70	72
Other Firearm	1	69	70
Knife	1	65	66
Blunt Instrument		28	28
Personal Weapon	9	69	78
Other or Unknown		40	40
Total 2004-2023	13	341	354

Table 18
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 2004-2023

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	69	3	72
Other Firearm	66	4	70
Knife	54	12	66
Blunt Instrument	27	1	28
Personal Weapon	64	14	78
Other or Unknown	26	14	40
Total 2004-2023	306	48	354

- Thirty-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 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, 2004-2023

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
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	14	23 *
2023	5	27	32
Total 2004-2023	137 (39%)	217 (61%)	354

Table 20
Weapon Use by Identified Assailants
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
North Dakota, 2004-2023

Weapon	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
Handgun	27	45	72
Other Firearm	27	43	70
Knife	21	45	66
Blunt Instrument	8	20	28
Personal Weapon	35	43	78
Other or Unknown	20	20	40
Total 2004-2023	138	216	354

Table 21
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant
North Dakota, 2004-2023

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		27	2	43
Other Firearm	1	26		43
Knife		21	1	44
Blunt Instrument		8		20
Personal Weapon	2	33	7	36
Other or Unknown		24		16
Total 2004-2023	3	139	10	202

Table 22
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant
North Dakota, 2004-2023

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	25	2	44	1
Other Firearm	25	2	41	2
Knife	15	6	39	6
Blunt Instrument	8		19	1
Personal Weapon	24	11	40	3
Other or Unknown	10	10	17	3
Total 2004-2023	107	31	200	16