

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

Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report

Homicide in North Dakota, 2024



**Attorney General
Drew H. Wrigley**

Report prepared by
Jeff Vyska
Bureau of Criminal Investigation

2025

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 2024

- In 2024, Nineteen homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 796,568, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 2.4 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 4 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Fifteen of the homicide victims were male
- **Victim Age:** Nineteen 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 2024.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of 7 homicide victims.
- **Domestic Violence:** There were three homicides in 2024 resulting from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 11.
- **Assailant Gender:** Nineteen of the twenty identified assailants were male.
- **Assailant Age:** 19 identified assailants were adults. 1 was 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, 2024

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Weapons Used	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
01/11/2024 ND Tribal Lands	25 22	F M	25	M	Unknown Unknown	Unknown	Unknown Circumstances
03/07/2024 Grand Forks PD	24	M	17	M	Otherwise Known	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Argument
03/28/2024 Fargo PD	22	M	28	M	Stranger	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Argument
04/03/2024 ND Tribal Lands	56	M	32	M	Acquaintance	Personal Weapons Asphyxiation	Argument
04/30/2024 Bismarck PD	57	M	32	M	Acquaintance	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Other Circumstances
05/23/2024 Stanley PD	39	M	33	M	Acquaintance	Handgun	Unknown Circumstances
06/01/2024 McKenzie County SO	68	M	53	M	Stranger	Personal Weapons	Argument
06/08/2024 Fargo PD	59	F	61	M	Boyfriend/Girlfriend	Personal Weapons Asphyxiation	Argument Domestic Violence Domestic Incident
06/24/2024 Fargo PD	24	M	20	M	Acquaintance	Firearm	Other Circumstances
07/03/2024 Dickinson PD	59	M	68	M	Neighbor	Handgun	Argument
07/04/2024 Grand Forks PD	53	M	26	M	Stranger	Handgun	Unknown Circumstances
07/15/2024 West Fargo PD	38	M	31	F	Acquaintance	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Unknown Circumstances
08/10/2024 Dickinson PD	42	F	56	M	Friend	Personal Weapons	Argument Domestic Incident
08/23/2024 Fargo PD	35	M	34 30	M M	Friend Friend	Firearm	Argument
09/21/2024 Fargo PD	25	M	24	M	Otherwise Known	Handgun	Argument
10/24/2024 Grand Forks PD	49	M	45	M	Otherwise Known	Personal Weapons	Unknown Circumstances
12/04/2024 Fargo PD	32	M	24 30	M M	Otherwise Known Unknown Otherwise Known	Firearm	Other Circumstances
12/17/2024 Minot PD	33	F	35	M	Boyfriend/Girlfriend	Unknown	Domestic Violence

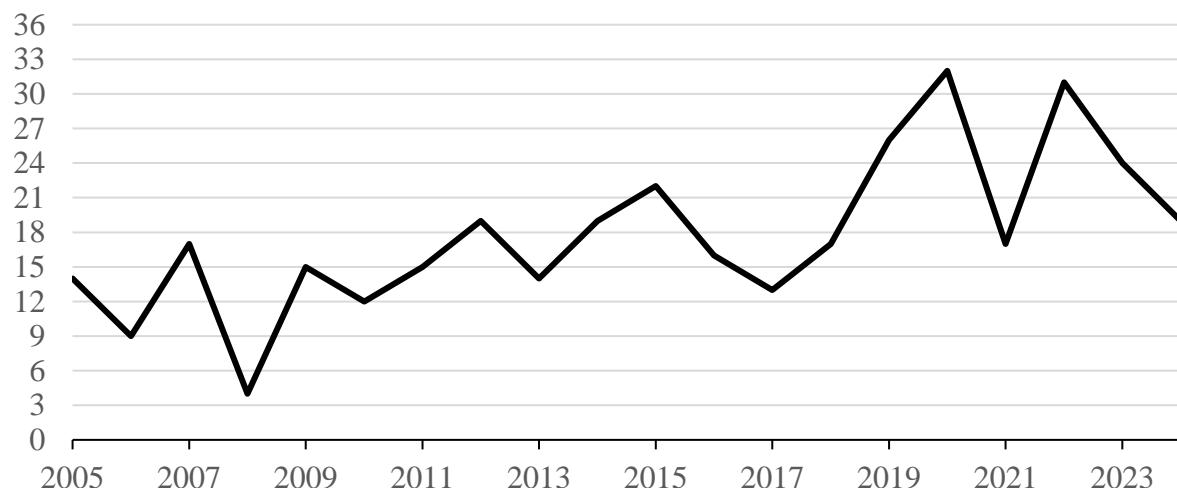
HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES

- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 2005-2024.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 17.8.

Table 2
Homicide Rate
North Dakota, 2005-2024

Year	Homicide Total	Population Estimate	Rate/100,000 Population
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
2024	19	796,568	2.4

Figure 1
Homicide in North Dakota 2005-2024



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- Sixty-eight percent of the 355 total homicide victims during the period 2005-2024 were male.

Table 3
Gender of Homicide Victims
North Dakota, 2005-2024

Year	Male	Female	Total
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
2024	15	4	19
Total 2005-2024	242	(68%)	355

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE

- Of the 355 homicides during the period 2005-2024, 85 percent were adults. See Table 4 below.
- Forty-six 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, 2005-2024

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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
2024	0	19	19
Total 2005-2024	54	301	355

Table 5
Homicide Victims
By Age and Gender
North Dakota, 2005-2024

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 1 year	13	13	26
01-05	2	3	5
06-10	5	3	8
11-15	6	1	7
16-20	19	9	28
21-25	35	11	46
26-30	35	13	48
31-35	26	7	33
36-40	24	12	36
41-45	13	10	23
46-50	15	7	22
51-55	15	6	21
56-60	18	4	22
61-65	5	5	10
Over 65	10	10	20
Total 2005-2024	241	114	355

WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

- Forty-three percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 2005-2024 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-five of the 355 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, 2005-2024

Year	Handgun	Other Firearm	Knife	Blunt Instrument	Personal Weapon	Other or Unknown	Total
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
2024	4	3	4		5	3	19
Total 2005-2024	81	73	71	21	65	44	355

*One weapon per incident is recognized on this chart.

- Firearms were used in 24 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-seven percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Forty-five 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, 2005-2024

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	7	74	81
Other Firearm	6	67	73
Knife	3	68	71
Blunt Instrument	0	20	20
Personal Weapon	24	41	65
Other or Unknown	14	31	45
Total 2005-2024	54	301	355

Table 8
Homicide Victims
By Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 2005-2024

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	58	23	81
Other Firearm	52	20	72
Knife	52	19	71
Blunt Instrument	17	3	20
Personal Weapon	36	29	65
Other or Unknown	27	19	46
Total 2005-2024	242	113	355

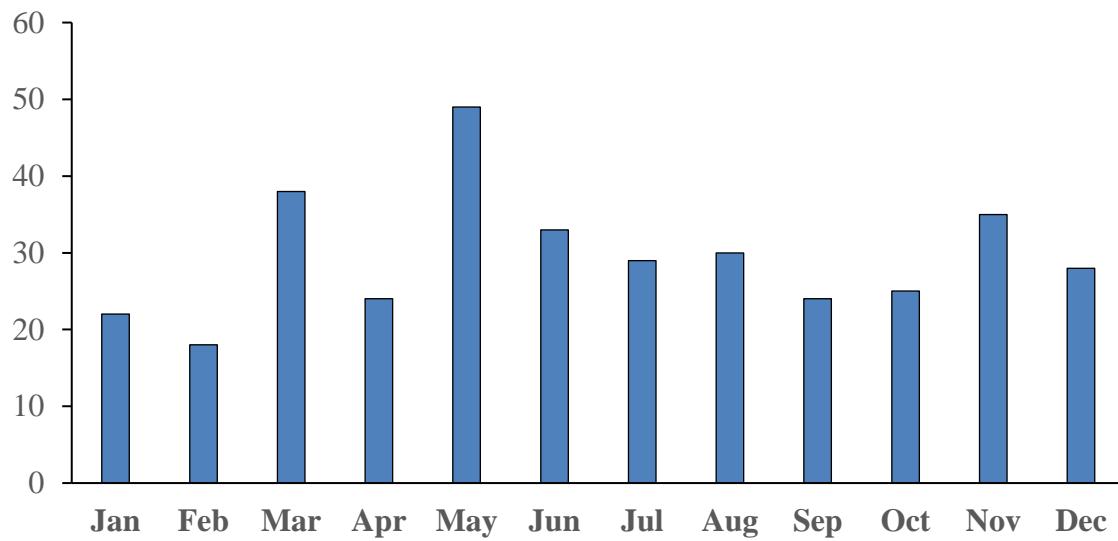
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

- During the period 2005-2024, 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, 2005-2024

Month	Number	Percent of Total Homicides
January	22	6.1%
February	18	5.1
March	38	10.7
April	24	6.8
May	49	13.7
June	33	9.3
July	29	8.2
August	30	8.5
September	24	6.8
October	25	7.0
November	35	9.9
December	28	7.9
Total 2005-2024	355	100.0

Figure 2
Homicides by Month of Occurrence
North Dakota, 2005-2024



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 2005-2024, 38 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

**Table 10
Domestic Violence Deaths
North Dakota, 2005-2024**

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	No Assailant Identified	Homicide Total
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
2024	3	16		19
Total 2005-2024	135	207	13	355

- Persons killed in non-domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in domestic incidents.
- Forty percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 34 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 24 percent of males.

Table 11
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Victim
North Dakota, 2005-2024

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun	4	25	3	46
Other Firearm	1	24	5	39
Knife	2	21	1	44
Blunt Instrument		7		14
Personal Weapon	19	14	5	27
Other or Unknown	6	14	6	15
Total 2005-2024	32	105	20	185

Table 12
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim
North Dakota, 2005-2024

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	11	18	44	5
Other Firearm	11	14	38	6
Knife	11	12	38	7
Blunt Instrument	3	4	14	
Personal Weapon	10	24	26	5
Other or Unknown	9	9	14	9
Total 2005-2024	55	81	174	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 2005 to 2024 is 93 percent.

Table 13
Clearance Rates for Homicides
North Dakota, 2005-2024

Year	Total Cleared	Total Homicides	North Dakota Clearance Rate	National Clearance Rate*
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
2024	15	19	79	Not Available

* Clearance rates reported in annual Crime in the United States reports published by the FBI.

IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- During the period 2005-2024, 87 percent of the 360 identified homicide assailants were male.

Table 14
Identified Homicide Assailants
By Gender
North Dakota, 2005-2024

Year	Male	Female	Total
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
2024	19	1	20
Total 2005-2024	313 (87%)	47 (13%)	360

- Ninety-six percent of the total 360 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 360 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, 2005-2024

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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
2024	1	19	20
Total 2005-2024	14 (4%)	346 (96%)	360

* 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, 2005-2024

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 10			0
11-15	4		4
16-20	33	5	38
21-25	60	8	68
26-30	59	9	68
31-35	54	11	65
36-40	20	3	23
41-45	30	5	35
46-50	20	3	23
51-55	9		9
56-60	10	2	12
61-65	7		7
Over 65	7	1	8
Total 2005-2024	313	47	360

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, 2005-2024

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	2	74	76
Other Firearm	1	69	70
Knife	2	68	70
Blunt Instrument		25	25
Personal Weapon	9	71	80
Other or Unknown		39	39
Total 2004-2023	14	346	360

Table 18
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 2005-2024

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	73	3	76
Other Firearm	67	3	70
Knife	57	13	70
Blunt Instrument	24	1	25
Personal Weapon	66	14	80
Other or Unknown	25	14	39
Total 2004-2023	312	48	360

- Thirty-seven 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, 2005-2024

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
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
2024	3	17	20
Total 2005-2024	134 (37%)	226 (63%)	360

* 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, 2005-2024

Weapon	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
Handgun	27	49	76
Other Firearm	23	47	70
Knife	21	49	70
Blunt Instrument	8	17	25
Personal Weapon	37	43	80
Other or Unknown	19	20	39
Total 2005-2024	135	225	360

Table 21
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant
North Dakota, 2005-2024

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		27	2	47
Other Firearm	1	22		47
Knife		21	2	47
Blunt Instrument		8		17
Personal Weapon	2	35	7	36
Other or Unknown		23		16
Total 2005-2024	3	136	11	210

Table 22
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant
North Dakota, 2005-2024

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	25	2	48	1
Other Firearm	22	1	45	2
Knife	15	6	42	7
Blunt Instrument	8		16	1
Personal Weapon	26	11	40	3
Other or Unknown	9	10	17	3
Total 2005-2024	105	30	208	17