

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

Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report

Homicide in North Dakota, 2008



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September 2009

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 2008

- In 2008, four homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 641,500, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 0.6 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 3 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Three of the homicide victims were male.
- **Victim Age:** Two 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 2008.
- **Weapons:** Knives were involved in the deaths of two homicide victims.
- **Domestic Violence:** There were no homicides in 2008 resulting from domestic violence incidents. This is a first in over 30 years. See definition on page 12.
- **Assailant Gender:** Six of the seven identified assailants were male.
- **Assailant Age:** All 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, 2008

Date & Location of Incident	Victim(s)		Assailant(s)		Weapons Used	Relationship of Victim to Assailant	Circumstances
	Age	Sex	Age	Sex			
3/1/2008 Devils Lake	43	F	26	M	Knife	Acquaintance	Offender found victim in home and processed to stab her.
4/14/2008 Bismarck	NB	M	30	F	Personal Weapon	Babysittee	Shaken Baby Syndrome.
6/4/2008 Bismarck	30	M	21 22 19	M M M	Knife	Acquaintance Acquaintance Acquaintance	Victim killed in the course of a robbery.
12/11/2008 Fort Berthold Reservation	16	M	21 20	M M	Personal Weapon	Acquaintance Friend	Argument between victim and assailants.

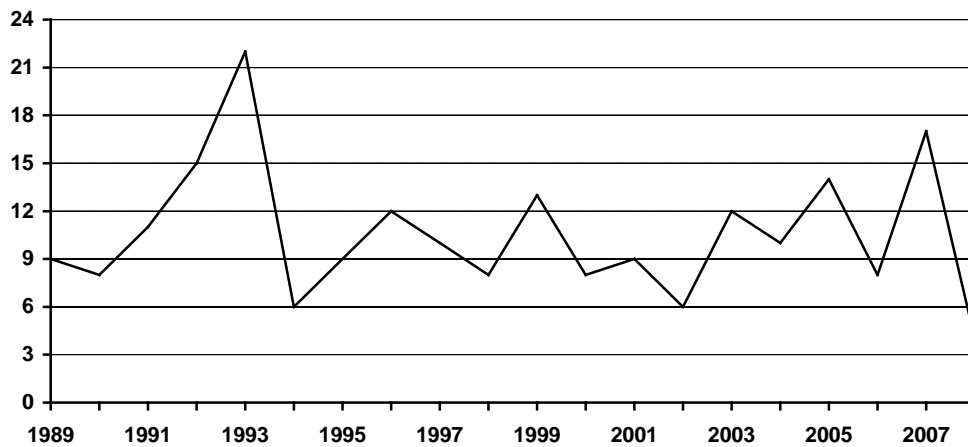
HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES

- Table 2 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 1989-2008.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 11.

Table 2
Homicide Rate
North Dakota, 1989-2008

Year	Homicide Total	Population Estimate	Rate/100,000 Population
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	1.3
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	17	640,000	2.7
2008	4	641,500	0.6

Figure 1
Homicide in North Dakota
1989-2008



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- Fifty-seven percent of the 211 total homicide victims during the period 1989-2008 were male.

Table 3
Gender of Homicide Victims
North Dakota, 1989-2008

Year	Male	Female	Total
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	7	10	17
2008	3	1	4
Total 1989-2008	120 (57%)	91 (43%)	211

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE

- Of the 211 homicides during the period 1989-2008, 82 percent were adults. See Table 4 below.
- Forty-one 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, 1989-2008**

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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	13	17
2008	2	2	4
Total 1989-2008	38	173	211

**Table 5
Homicide Victims
By Age and Gender
North Dakota, 1989-2008**

Age	Male	Female	Total
Less than 1 year	10	7	17
01-05	3	3	6
06-10	1	3	4
11-15	1	2	3
16-20	11	10	21
21-25	14	4	18
26-30	15	10	25
31-35	10	8	18
36-40	15	11	26
41-45	8	8	16
46-50	10	10	20
51-55	7	2	9
56-60	2	2	4
61-65	1	2	3
Over 65	12	9	21
Total 1989-2008	120	91	211

WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

- Forty-two percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 1989-2008 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 211 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, 1989-2008**

Year	Handgun	Other Firearm	Knife	Blunt Instrument	Personal Weapon	Other or Unknown	Total
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	1	6	4	17
2008			2		2		4
Total 1989-2008	36	52	37	17	32	37	211

- Firearms were used in 24 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Forty-six percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Thirty-eight percent of homicides of males and 47 percent of homicides of females involved the use of firearms. See Table 8.
- Eighteen 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, 1989-2008**

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	2	34	36
Other Firearm	7	45	52
Knife		37	37
Blunt Instrument	1	16	17
Personal Weapon	14	18	32
Other or Unknown	14	23	37
Total 1989-2008	38	173	211

**Table 8
Homicide Victims
By Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1989-2008**

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	22	14	36
Other Firearm	23	29	52
Knife	22	15	37
Blunt Instrument	14	3	17
Personal Weapon	19	13	32
Other or Unknown	20	17	37
Total 1989-2008	120	91	211

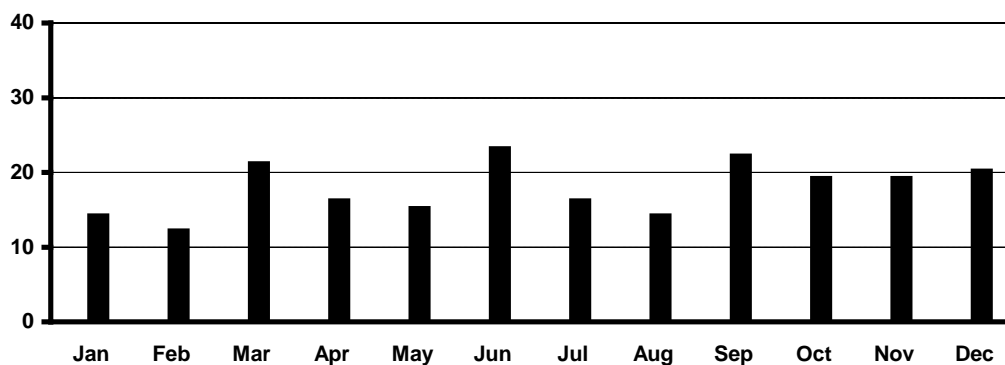
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

- During the period 1989-2008, the month of June 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, 1989-2008

Month	Number	Percent of Total Homicides
January	14	6.6 %
February	12	5.7
March	21	10.0
April	16	7.6
May	15	7.1
June	23	10.9
July	16	7.6
August	14	6.6
September	22	10.4
October	19	9.0
November	19	9.0
December	20	9.5
Total 1989-2008	211	100.0

Figure 2
Homicides by Month of Occurrence
North Dakota, 1989-2008



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 1989-2008, 52 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

**Table 10
Domestic Violence Deaths
North Dakota, 1989-2008**

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	No Assailant Identified	Homicide Total
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	7		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	9	1	17
2008		4		4
Total 1989-2008	109	92	10	211

- Persons killed in domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in non-domestic incidents.
- Fifty-nine percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 21 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 37 percent of males.

Table 11
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Victim
North Dakota, 1989-2008

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		17	2	16
Other Firearm	7	34		11
Knife		19		17
Blunt Instrument	1	4		11
Personal Weapon	9	5	5	12
Other or Unknown	7	6	6	12
Total 1989-2008	24	85	13	79

Table 12
Domestic Violence Deaths
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim
North Dakota, 1989-2008

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	6	11	15	3
Other Firearm	14	27	9	2
Knife	10	9	11	6
Blunt Instrument	2	3	11	
Personal Weapon	5	9	14	3
Other or Unknown	7	6	8	10
Total 1989-2008	44	65	68	24

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 1989 to 2008 is 95 percent.

Table 13
Clearance Rates for Homicides
North Dakota, 1989-2008

Year	Total Cleared	Total Homicides	North Dakota Clearance Rate	National Clearance Rate*
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	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	16	17	94	61
2008	4	4	100	Not Available

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

IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- During the period 1989-2008, 87 percent of the 215 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Ten homicides during 1989-2008 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

Table 14
Identified Homicide Assailants
By Gender
North Dakota, 1989-2008

Year	Male	Female	Total
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	11		11
2002	5		5 *
2003	9		9
2004	13	1	14
2005	12	1	13 *
2006	6	1	7 *
2007	14	3	17 *
2008	6	1	7
Total 1989-2008	189 (87%)	26 (13%)	215

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

- Eighty-eight percent of the total 215 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 215 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, 1989-2008

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
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		11	11
2002		5	5 *
2003		9	9
2004		14	14
2005		13	13 *
2006		7	7 *
2007	3	14	17 *
2008		7	7
Total 1989-2008	26 (12%)	189 (88%)	215

* 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, 1989-2008

Age	Male	Female	Total
01-05			0
06-10			0
11-15	12	2	14
16-20	38	3	41
21-25	44	6	50
26-30	26	4	30
31-35	17	3	20
36-40	15	4	19
41-45	10	3	13
46-50	7		7
51-55	4	1	5
56-60	8		8
61-65	2		2
Over 65	6		6
Total 1989-2008	189	26	215

WEAPONS AND IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS

- In homicide incidents involving firearms, juvenile 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 knives.

Table 17
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Age Category
North Dakota, 1989-2008

Weapon	Juvenile	Adult	Total
Handgun	1	32	33
Other Firearm	10	39	49
Knife	5	42	47
Blunt Instrument	3	17	20
Personal Weapon	4	31	35
Other or Unknown	3	28	31
Total 1989-2008	26	189	215

Table 18
Identified Assailants
By Type of Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1989-2008

Weapon	Male	Female	Total
Handgun	31	2	33
Other Firearm	46	3	49
Knife	37	10	47
Blunt Instrument	20		20
Personal Weapon	31	4	35
Other or Unknown	24	7	31
Total 1989-2008	189	26	215

- Forty-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 domestic incidents than in non-domestic incidents. See Table 20.
- Knives were more likely to be used by assailants in non-domestic incidents.
- Seventy-seven percent of identified female assailants were involved in domestic incidents, compared to 43 percent for males. See Table 22.

Table 19
Identified Homicide Assailants
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
North Dakota, 1989-2008

Year	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
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	9	11
2002	4	1	5 *
2003	6	3	9
2004	6	8	14
2005	7	6	13 *
2006	4	3	7 *
2007	9	8	17 *
2008		7	7
Total 1989-2008	101 (47%)	114 (53%)	215

* 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, 1989-2008

Weapon	Domestic	Non-Domestic	Total
Handgun	17	16	33
Other Firearm	31	18	49
Knife	19	28	47
Blunt Instrument	4	16	20
Personal Weapon	15	20	35
Other or Unknown	15	16	31
Total 1989-2008	101	114	215

Table 21
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant
North Dakota, 1989-2008

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult
Handgun		17	1	15
Other Firearm	1	30	9	9
Knife	2	17	3	25
Blunt Instrument		4	3	13
Personal Weapon	2	13	2	18
Other or Unknown	1	14	2	14
Total 1989-2008	6	95	20	94

Table 22
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
By Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant
North Dakota, 1989-2008

Weapon	Domestic		Non-Domestic	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Handgun	16	1	15	1
Other Firearm	28	3	18	
Knife	11	8	26	2
Blunt Instrument	4		16	
Personal Weapon	12	3	19	1
Other or Unknown	10	5	14	2
Total 1989-2008	81	20	108	6