

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

Criminal Justice Statistics Special Report

Homicide in North Dakota, 2002



**Attorney General
Wayne Stenehjem**

Report prepared by
Colleen Weltz
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Information Services Section

October 2003

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 2002

- In 2002, six homicide deaths were known to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. Based on a state population estimate of 634,110, the resulting homicide rate for the state of North Dakota was 0.9 per 100,000 population. See Table 2 on page 3 for information regarding rates for previous years.
- **Victim Gender:** Two of the homicide victims were male.
- **Victim Age:** Four 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 2002.
- **Weapons:** Firearms were involved in the deaths of two homicide victims. One victim died as the result of strangulation. Two victims died as the result of beatings. In one of the incidents, the weapon involved was unknown.
- **Domestic Violence:** Four of the six homicides in 2002 resulted from domestic violence incidents. See definition on page 10.
- **Assailant Gender:** All of the 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, 2002**

| Date and Location of Incident | Victim(s) | | Assailant(s) | | Weapon Used | Relationship of Victim(s) to Assailant(s) | Circumstances |
|---|-----------|-----|--------------|-----|-----------------|---|---|
| | AGE | SEX | AGE | SEX | | | |
| 1/27/2002 Dickinson | 28 | F | 28 | M | Handgun | Ex-wife | Victim & assailant were found dead in home with single gunshot wounds. Apparent murder/suicide. |
| 2/15/2002 Devils Lake | 7-wk-old | M | 28 | M | Personal Weapon | Son | Victim was thrown across the room in an infant seat & suffered multiple internal injuries with head injury. |
| 8/1/2002 Spirit Lake Reservation | 36 | F | 20 | M | Firearm | Aunt | Domestic dispute murder/suicide. |
| 10/15/2002 Bismarck | 1 | F | 25 | M | Personal Weapon | Daughter of Assailant's girlfriend | Domestic violence. Victim was discovered not breathing in bed. |
| 11/5/2002 Penn Ramsey County | 19 | M | | | Not Reported | | Victim was found dead in a shelterbelt. |
| 12/27/2002 Driscoll Burleigh County | 73 | F | 21 | M | Strangulation | Acquaintance | Victim was sexually assaulted and murdered. |

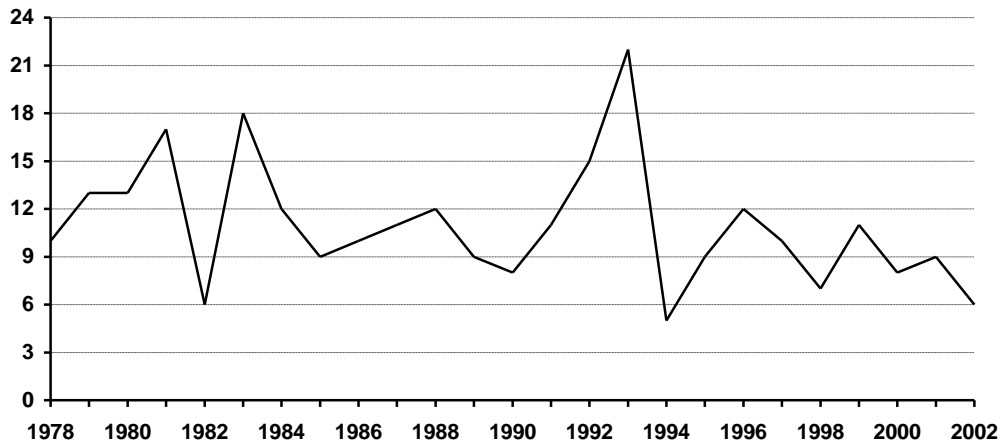
HOMICIDE TOTALS AND RATES

- Table 2 on page 3 provides yearly homicide totals and homicide rate information for North Dakota during the period 1978-2002.
- The average number of homicide deaths per year during this period is 11.

**Table 2
Homicide Rate
North Dakota, 1978-2002**

| Year | Homicide Total | Population Estimate | Rate/100,000 Population |
|------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1978 | 10 | 651,000 | 1.5 |
| 1979 | 13 | 652,000 | 2.0 |
| 1980 | 13 | 652,700 | 2.0 |
| 1981 | 17 | 652,200 | 2.6 |
| 1982 | 6 | 670,000 | 0.9 |
| 1983 | 18 | 680,000 | 2.6 |
| 1984 | 12 | 686,000 | 1.7 |
| 1985 | 9 | 686,000 | 1.3 |
| 1986 | 10 | 679,000 | 1.5 |
| 1987 | 11 | 672,000 | 1.6 |
| 1988 | 12 | 663,000 | 1.8 |
| 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 | 5 | 638,000 | 0.8 |
| 1995 | 9 | 641,000 | 1.4 |
| 1996 | 12 | 644,000 | 1.9 |
| 1997 | 10 | 641,000 | 1.6 |
| 1998 | 7 | 638,000 | 1.1 |
| 1999 | 11 | 634,000 | 1.7 |
| 2000 | 8 | 642,200 | 1.2 |
| 2001 | 9 | 634,450 | 1.4 |
| 2002 | 6 | 634,110 | 0.9 |

**Figure 1
Homicide in North Dakota
1978-2002**



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- Fifty-nine percent of the 273 total homicide victims during the period 1978-2002 were male.

Table 3
Gender of Homicide Victims
North Dakota, 1978-2002

| Year | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1978 | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| 1979 | 10 | 3 | 13 |
| 1980 | 9 | 4 | 13 |
| 1981 | 9 | 8 | 17 |
| 1982 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 1983 | 10 | 8 | 18 |
| 1984 | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| 1985 | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 1986 | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| 1987 | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| 1988 | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| 1989 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 1990 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 1991 | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| 1992 | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| 1993 | 15 | 7 | 22 |
| 1994 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 1995 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 1996 | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| 1997 | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| 1998 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 1999 | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| 2000 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| 2001 | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 2002 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 162 (59%) | 111 (41%) | 273 |

VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS - AGE

- Of the 273 homicides during the period 1978-2002, 85 percent were adults. See Table 4 below.
- Forty-eight 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, 1978-2002**

| Year | Juvenile | Adult | Age Unknown | Total |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1978 | | 10 | | 10 |
| 1979 | 3 | 10 | | 13 |
| 1980 | 3 | 10 | | 13 |
| 1981 | 2 | 15 | | 17 |
| 1982 | | 6 | | 6 |
| 1983 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 18 |
| 1984 | 5 | 7 | | 12 |
| 1985 | | 9 | | 9 |
| 1986 | | 10 | | 10 |
| 1987 | 2 | 9 | | 11 |
| 1988 | 1 | 11 | | 12 |
| 1989 | 2 | 7 | | 9 |
| 1990 | | 8 | | 8 |
| 1991 | 3 | 8 | | 11 |
| 1992 | 3 | 12 | | 15 |
| 1993 | 7 | 15 | | 22 |
| 1994 | | 5 | | 5 |
| 1995 | 2 | 7 | | 9 |
| 1996 | | 12 | | 12 |
| 1997 | | 10 | | 10 |
| 1998 | 1 | 6 | | 7 |
| 1999 | 1 | 10 | | 11 |
| 2000 | | 8 | | 8 |
| 2001 | | 9 | | 9 |
| 2002 | 2 | 4 | | 6 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 39 | 233 | 1 | 273 |

**Table 5
Homicide Victims
by Age and Gender
North Dakota, 1978-2002**

| Age | Male | Female | Total |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Unknown | | 1 | 1 |
| Less than 1 year | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| 01-05 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 06-10 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| 11-15 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 16-20 | 15 | 6 | 21 |
| 21-25 | 30 | 10 | 40 |
| 26-30 | 20 | 13 | 33 |
| 31-35 | 12 | 13 | 25 |
| 36-40 | 17 | 15 | 32 |
| 41-45 | 13 | 7 | 20 |
| 46-50 | 11 | 7 | 18 |
| 51-55 | 11 | 6 | 17 |
| 56-60 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 61-65 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Over 65 | 13 | 7 | 20 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 162 | 111 | 273 |

WEAPONS AND VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS

- Fifty-one percent of deaths due to homicide during the period 1978-2002 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.
- Twenty-five of the 273 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, 1978-2002**

| Year | Handgun | Other Firearm | Knife | Blunt Instrument | Personal Weapon | Other or Unknown | Total |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1978 | 4 | 4 | 1 | | 1 | | 10 |
| 1979 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 13 |
| 1980 | 5 | 5 | 2 | | | 1 | 13 |
| 1981 | 3 | 5 | 3 | | 1 | 5 | 17 |
| 1982 | | 3 | 3 | | | | 6 |
| 1983 | | 9 | 4 | 2 | | 3 | 18 |
| 1984 | 5 | 2 | | | | 5 | 12 |
| 1985 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 1986 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| 1987 | 2 | 4 | 5 | | | | 11 |
| 1988 | 9 | | | | 2 | 1 | 12 |
| 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 | | | | 2 | 5 |
| 1995 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 9 |
| 1996 | 3 | 4 | 4 | | | 1 | 12 |
| 1997 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 10 |
| 1998 | | 3 | 2 | | | 2 | 7 |
| 1999 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | | 2 | 11 |
| 2000 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 8 |
| 2001 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| 2002 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 62 | 76 | 51 | 17 | 25 | 42 | 273 |

- Firearms were used in 44 percent of the homicides of juveniles. Fifty-two percent of adult deaths due to homicide involved firearms. See Table 7 below.
- Forty-six percent of homicides of males and 57 percent of homicides of females involved the use of firearms. See Table 8.
- Twenty-three percent of homicides of males and 12 percent of homicides of females involved knives.

Table 7
Homicide Victims
by Weapon and Age Category
North Dakota, 1978-2002

| Weapon | Juvenile | Adult | Age Unknown | Total |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Handgun | 8 | 54 | | 62 |
| Other Firearm | 9 | 67 | | 76 |
| Knife | 1 | 50 | | 51 |
| Blunt Instrument | 2 | 15 | | 17 |
| Personal Weapon | 7 | 18 | | 25 |
| Other or Unknown | 12 | 29 | 1 | 42 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 39 | 233 | 1 | 273 |

Table 8
Homicide Victims
by Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1978-2002

| Weapon | Male | Female | Total |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Handgun | 37 | 25 | 62 |
| Other Firearm | 38 | 38 | 76 |
| Knife | 38 | 13 | 51 |
| Blunt Instrument | 13 | 4 | 17 |
| Personal Weapon | 16 | 9 | 25 |
| Other or Unknown | 20 | 22 | 42 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 162 | 111 | 273 |

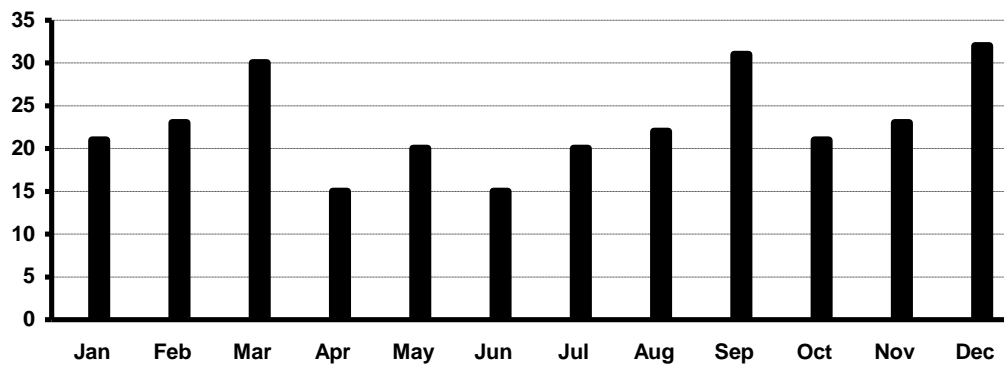
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

- During the period 1978-2002, the month of December had the highest number of deaths. See Table 9 below. Figure 2 illustrates this information graphically.

Table 9
Deaths Due to Homicide
by Month, 1978-2002

| Month | Number | Percent of Total Homicides |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| January | 21 | 7.7 % |
| February | 23 | 8.4 |
| March | 30 | 11.0 |
| April | 15 | 5.5 |
| May | 20 | 7.3 |
| June | 15 | 5.5 |
| July | 20 | 7.3 |
| August | 22 | 8.1 |
| September | 31 | 11.4 |
| October | 21 | 7.7 |
| November | 23 | 8.4 |
| December | 32 | 11.7 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 273 | 100.0 |

Figure 2
Homicides by Month of Occurrence
North Dakota, 1978-2002



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 1978-2002, 50 percent of deaths due to homicide involved domestic violence.

**Table 10
Domestic Violence Deaths
North Dakota, 1978-2002**

| Year | Domestic | Non-Domestic | No Assailant Identified | Homicide Total |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1978 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 10 |
| 1979 | 4 | 9 | | 13 |
| 1980 | 7 | 6 | | 13 |
| 1981 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 17 |
| 1982 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 1983 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 18 |
| 1984 | 10 | 2 | | 12 |
| 1985 | 2 | 7 | | 9 |
| 1986 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 10 |
| 1987 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 11 |
| 1988 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 12 |
| 1989 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| 1990 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 1991 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 11 |
| 1992 | 11 | 4 | | 15 |
| 1993 | 11 | 11 | | 22 |
| 1994 | 4 | 1 | | 5 |
| 1995 | 3 | 6 | | 9 |
| 1996 | 7 | 5 | | 12 |
| 1997 | 2 | 8 | | 10 |
| 1998 | 5 | 2 | | 7 |
| 1999 | 6 | 5 | | 11 |
| 2000 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| 2001 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| 2002 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 136 | 119 | 18 | 273 |

- Persons killed in domestic violence incidents were more likely to be killed with a firearm than those killed in non-domestic incidents.
- Sixty-nine percent of female deaths in domestic violence incidents involved firearms, while 30 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 35 percent of males.

Table 11
Domestic Violence Deaths
by Type of Weapon and Age Category of Victim
North Dakota, 1978-2002

| Weapon | Domestic | | Non-Domestic | |
|------------------|----------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | Juvenile | Adult | Juvenile | Adult |
| Handgun | 5 | 29 | 3 | 20 |
| Other Firearm | 8 | 44 | 1 | 21 |
| Knife | | 21 | 1 | 25 |
| Blunt Instrument | 1 | 4 | 1 | 11 |
| Personal Weapon | 6 | 4 | 1 | 13 |
| Other or Unknown | 5 | 9 | 6 | 16 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 25 | 111 | 13 | 106 |

Table 12
Domestic Violence Deaths
by Type of Weapon and Gender of Victim
North Dakota, 1978-2002

| Weapon | Domestic | | Non-Domestic | |
|------------------|----------|--------|--------------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Handgun | 13 | 21 | 19 | 4 |
| Other Firearm | 18 | 34 | 18 | 4 |
| Knife | 14 | 7 | 21 | 5 |
| Blunt Instrument | 1 | 4 | 12 | |
| Personal Weapon | 5 | 5 | 11 | 3 |
| Other or Unknown | 5 | 9 | 11 | 11 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 56 | 80 | 92 | 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 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 1978 to 2002 is 93 percent.

**Table 13
Clearance Rates for Homicides
North Dakota, 1978-2002**

| Year | Total Cleared | Total Homicides | North Dakota Clearance Rate | National Clearance Rate* |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1978 | 9 | 10 | 90 % | 76 % |
| 1979 | 13 | 13 | 100 | 73 |
| 1980 | 13 | 13 | 100 | 72 |
| 1981 | 15 | 17 | 88 | 72 |
| 1982 | 5 | 6 | 83 | 74 |
| 1983 | 17 | 18 | 94 | 76 |
| 1984 | 12 | 12 | 100 | 74 |
| 1985 | 9 | 9 | 100 | 72 |
| 1986 | 9 | 10 | 90 | 70 |
| 1987 | 10 | 11 | 91 | 70 |
| 1988 | 11 | 12 | 92 | 70 |
| 1989 | 8 | 9 | 89 | 68 |
| 1990 | 7 | 8 | 88 | 67 |
| 1991 | 9 | 11 | 82 | 67 |
| 1992 | 15 | 15 | 100 | 65 |
| 1993 | 22 | 22 | 100 | 66 |
| 1994 | 5 | 5 | 100 | 64 |
| 1995 | 9 | 9 | 100 | 65 |
| 1996 | 12 | 12 | 100 | 67 |
| 1997 | 10 | 10 | 100 | 66 |
| 1998 | 7 | 7 | 100 | 69 |
| 1999 | 11 | 11 | 100 | 69 |
| 2000 | 7 | 8 | 88 | 63 |
| 2001 | 5 | 9 | 56 | 63 |
| 2002 | 5 | 6 | 83 | Not Available |

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

IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS - GENDER

- During the period 1978-2002, 89 percent of the 267 identified homicide assailants were male.
- Eighteen homicides during 1978-2002 have not had an assailant identified by law enforcement.

Table 14
Identified Homicide Assailants
by Gender
North Dakota, 1978-2002

| Year | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1978 | 9 | | 9 * |
| 1979 | 14 | 2 | 16 |
| 1980 | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| 1981 | 9 | 3 | 12 * |
| 1982 | 4 | 1 | 5 * |
| 1983 | 17 | 2 | 19 * |
| 1984 | 8 | | 8 |
| 1985 | 12 | | 12 |
| 1986 | 8 | | 8 * |
| 1987 | 10 | | 10 * |
| 1988 | 9 | 3 | 12 * |
| 1989 | 8 | | 8 * |
| 1990 | 3 | 3 | 6 * |
| 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 | 2 | 7 |
| 1999 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 2000 | 7 | 1 | 8 * |
| 2001 | 7 | | 7 * |
| 2002 | 5 | | 5 * |
| Total 1978-2002 | 238 (89%) | 29 (11%) | 267 |

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

- Eighty-six percent of the total 267 assailants identified by law enforcement were adults. See Table 15 below.
- Of the 267 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, 1978-2002

| Year | Juvenile | Adult | Total |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1978 | 2 | 7 | 9 * |
| 1979 | 2 | 14 | 16 |
| 1980 | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| 1981 | | 12 | 12 * |
| 1982 | | 5 | 5 * |
| 1983 | | 19 | 19 * |
| 1984 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 1985 | | 12 | 12 |
| 1986 | | 8 | 8 * |
| 1987 | 2 | 8 | 10 * |
| 1988 | | 12 | 12 * |
| 1989 | 2 | 6 | 8 * |
| 1990 | | 6 | 6 * |
| 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 | 6 | 7 |
| 1999 | | 9 | 9 |
| 2000 | | 8 | 8 * |
| 2001 | | 7 | 7 * |
| 2002 | | 5 | 5 * |
| Total 1978-2002 | 37 (14%) | 230 (86%) | 267 |

* 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, 1978-2002

| Age | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 01-05 | | | 0 |
| 06-10 | | | 0 |
| 11-15 | 19 | 2 | 21 |
| 16-20 | 47 | 4 | 51 |
| 21-25 | 53 | 3 | 56 |
| 26-30 | 35 | 2 | 37 |
| 31-35 | 26 | 7 | 33 |
| 36-40 | 17 | 4 | 21 |
| 41-45 | 16 | 6 | 22 |
| 46-50 | 7 | | 7 |
| 51-55 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 56-60 | 5 | | 5 |
| 61-65 | 4 | | 4 |
| Over 65 | 4 | | 4 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 238 | 29 | 267 |

WEAPONS AND IDENTIFIED ASSAILANT CHARACTERISTICS

- In homicide incidents involving firearms, juvenile assailants were much more likely to use firearms other than handguns. For adults, long guns were used only slightly more often than handguns.
- Male assailants were more likely to use firearms in homicide incidents, while females were more likely to use knives.
- For incidents involving the use of firearms, male assailants were more likely to use rifles or shotguns than handguns. Conversely, females were more likely to use handguns than other types of firearms.

Table 17
Identified Assailants
by Type of Weapon and Age Category
North Dakota, 1978-2002

| Weapon | Juvenile | Adult | Total |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Handgun | 2 | 49 | 51 |
| Other Firearm | 19 | 54 | 73 |
| Knife | 6 | 52 | 58 |
| Blunt Instrument | 4 | 19 | 23 |
| Personal Weapon | 2 | 24 | 26 |
| Other or Unknown | 4 | 32 | 36 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 37 | 230 | 267 |

Table 18
Identified Assailants
by Type of Weapon and Gender
North Dakota, 1978-2002

| Weapon | Male | Female | Total |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Handgun | 45 | 6 | 51 |
| Other Firearm | 69 | 4 | 73 |
| Knife | 45 | 13 | 58 |
| Blunt Instrument | 22 | 1 | 23 |
| Personal Weapon | 25 | 1 | 26 |
| Other or Unknown | 32 | 4 | 36 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 238 | 29 | 267 |

- Forty-five 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.

Table 19
Identified Homicide Assailants
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
North Dakota, 1978-2002

| Year | Domestic | Non-Domestic | Total |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| 1978 | 4 | 5 | 9 * |
| 1979 | 5 | 11 | 16 |
| 1980 | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| 1981 | 7 | 5 | 12 * |
| 1982 | 4 | 1 | 5 * |
| 1983 | 4 | 15 | 19 * |
| 1984 | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 1985 | 2 | 10 | 12 |
| 1986 | 4 | 4 | 8 * |
| 1987 | 3 | 7 | 10 * |
| 1988 | 6 | 6 | 12 * |
| 1989 | 4 | 4 | 8 * |
| 1990 | 4 | 2 | 6 * |
| 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 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 1999 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 2000 | 6 | 2 | 8 * |
| 2001 | 1 | 6 | 7 * |
| 2002 | 4 | 1 | 5 * |
| Total 1978-2002 | 120 (45%) | 147 (55%) | 267 |

* 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, 1978-2002

| Weapon | Domestic | Non-Domestic | Total |
|------------------|----------|--------------|-------|
| Handgun | 28 | 23 | 51 |
| Other Firearm | 42 | 31 | 73 |
| Knife | 21 | 37 | 58 |
| Blunt Instrument | 4 | 19 | 23 |
| Personal Weapon | 11 | 15 | 26 |
| Other or Unknown | 14 | 22 | 36 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 120 | 147 | 267 |

- Blunt instruments were more likely to be used by assailants in non-domestic incidents.
- Seventy-two percent of identified female assailants were involved in domestic incidents, compared to 41 percent for males. See Table 22.

Table 21
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
by Type of Weapon and Age Category of Assailant
North Dakota, 1978-2002

| Weapon | Domestic | | Non-Domestic | |
|------------------|----------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | Juvenile | Adult | Juvenile | Adult |
| Handgun | 1 | 27 | 1 | 22 |
| Other Firearm | 5 | 37 | 14 | 17 |
| Knife | 3 | 18 | 3 | 34 |
| Blunt Instrument | | 4 | 4 | 15 |
| Personal Weapon | 1 | 10 | 1 | 14 |
| Other or Unknown | 2 | 12 | 2 | 20 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 12 | 108 | 25 | 122 |

Table 22
Domestic/Non-Domestic Incidents
by Type of Weapon and Gender of Assailant
North Dakota, 1978-2002

| Weapon | Domestic | | Non-Domestic | |
|------------------|----------|--------|--------------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Handgun | 24 | 4 | 21 | 2 |
| Other Firearm | 38 | 4 | 31 | |
| Knife | 11 | 10 | 34 | 3 |
| Blunt Instrument | 4 | | 18 | 1 |
| Personal Weapon | 10 | 1 | 15 | |
| Other or Unknown | 12 | 2 | 20 | 2 |
| Total 1978-2002 | 99 | 21 | 139 | 8 |