

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence
Homicide Report
2009



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In Memory

The North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence has collected this information in memory of all the lives lost to the epidemic of domestic violence in our state. We hope that by raising awareness of the deadliness of this crime that others will be saved. Our hearts go out to all of the families and friends of those who have lost a loved one to domestic violence.

Special Thanks

The Coalition would like to thank the advocates and allies who work for domestic violence service programs and other agencies throughout North Carolina for helping acquire the following information. Without your help, we could not know the extent of domestic violence homicides in our state. Thank you for making it possible for us to understand and record the devastating impact of domestic violence homicides. This information will be used in our quest to educate and inform the public and, ultimately, to eliminate domestic violence. The Coalition extends its gratitude to the following university programs and students whose support was invaluable in the creation of this report: Duke University's Hart Leadership Program and Andrea Marston, Dr. Rachel F. Seidman, Michael Naclerio, Swapanthi Nagulpally, and Sharon Pomranky. The Coalition extends a special thank you to Elizabeth Hopkins, and the University of North Carolina School of Law Pro Bono Program.

Disclaimer

Information regarding domestic violence homicides in North Carolina has been collected by the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence since January 1, 2002, through reports from advocates, allies, and surviving family members from across the state. This report is not intended to be an official record of all domestic violence homicides in North Carolina for the time period covered and shall not be used for any purpose without prior permission from the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Homicides are included based on case specific information that demonstrates a correlation between domestic violence and the death of the victim. Nothing included in this information is intended to represent a legal standard of guilt or innocence.

Domestic Violence Homicide As Defined by NCCADV

Domestic violence homicides occur when a person murders his or her current or former intimate partner and/or his or her children. Domestic violence homicides include the murder of third parties. Examples include the murder of relatives of the person's former or current intimate partner, someone attempting to protect their current or former intimate partner, or the current intimate partner of the person's ex-partner. Domestic violence homicides include acts of self-defense against an abusive partner.

Domestic Violence Homicides in North Carolina: 2009 Summary

- There were 70 domestic violence homicides in North Carolina in 2009.
- The majority of these homicides were perpetrated by men, and the majority of the victims were women.
- There were 9 children present during homicides; 3 of these children were also victims.
- 11 of the perpetrators were under 25 years of age.
- 69% of domestic violence homicides were committed using a firearm.

Homicides 2002-2009

Between 2002-2009, NCCADV tracked 620 domestic violence-related homicides.

The average number of homicides perpetrated annually is 77.5.

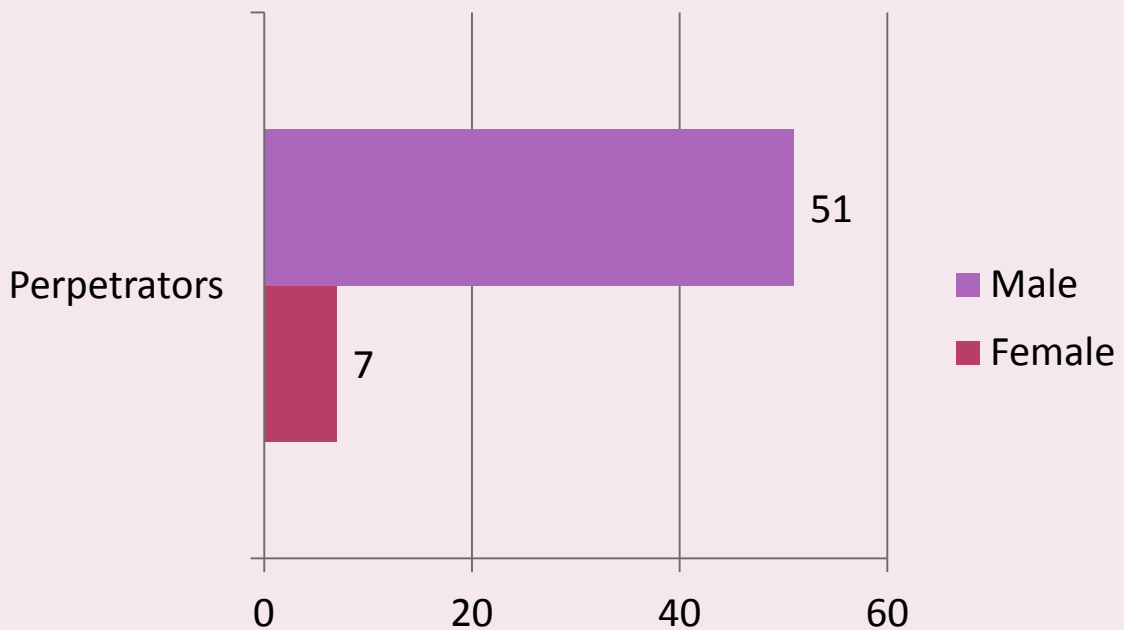
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Homicides	79	72	81	72	80	86	80	70

Perpetrators by Sex

51 alleged perpetrators were male

7 alleged perpetrators were female

5 alleged perpetrators committed 17 homicides

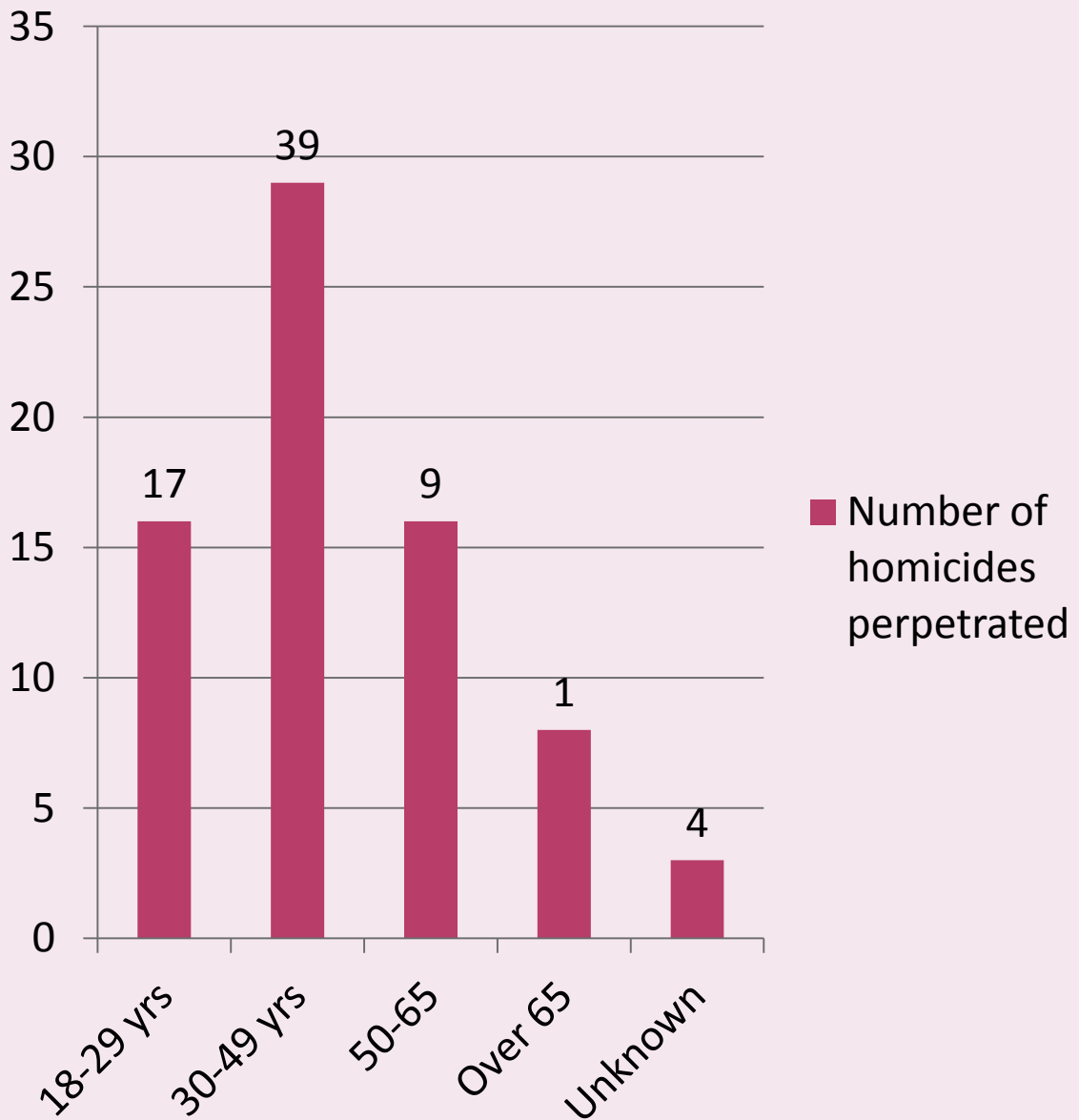


Perpetrators by Age

26% of homicides were committed by alleged perpetrators between 18-29

59% of homicides were committed by alleged perpetrators between 30-49

15% of homicides were committed by alleged perpetrators 50 and over

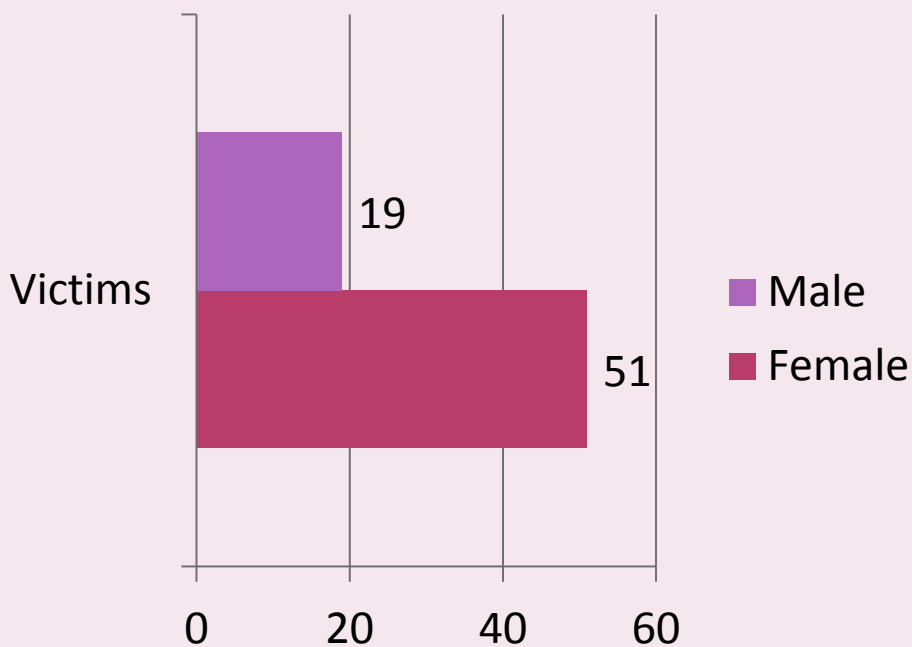


Victims by Sex

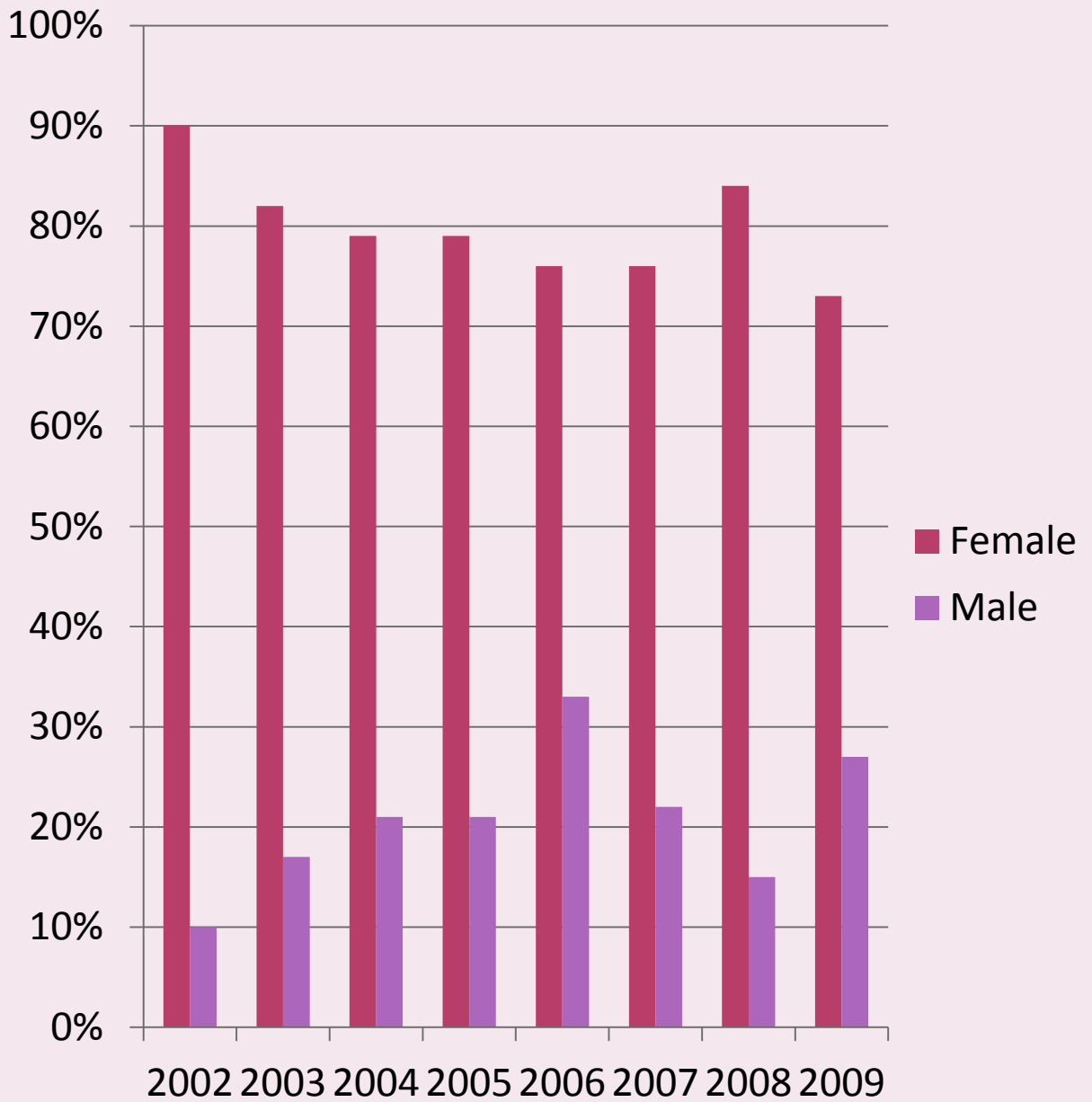
Every year, the number of women killed as a result of domestic violence far exceeds the number of men killed.

51 of the victims were female

19 of the victims were male



Victim by Sex: 2002-2009



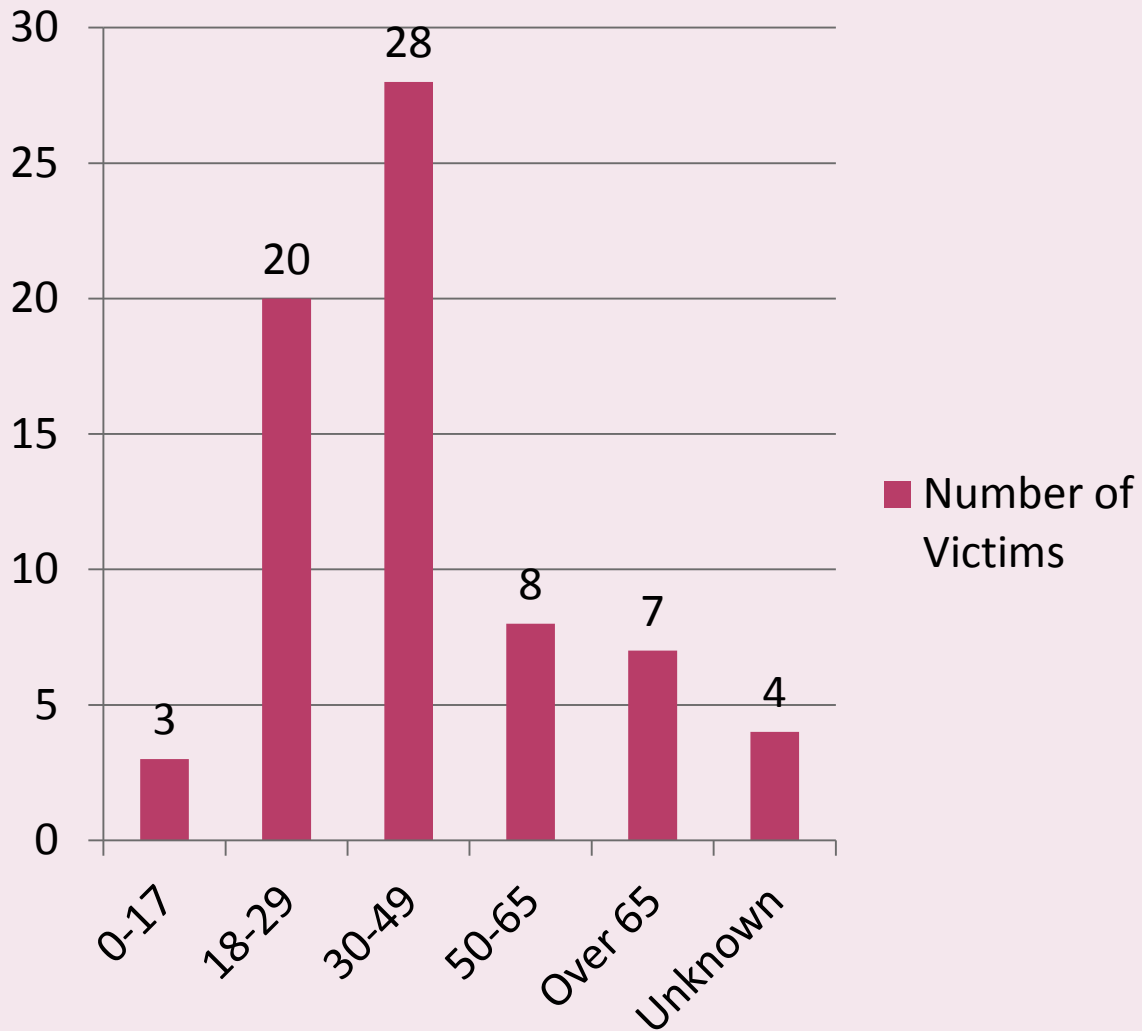
Victims by Age

4.5% of victims were between 0-17

30% of victims were between 18-29

42% of victims were between 30-49

22% of victims were 50 and over



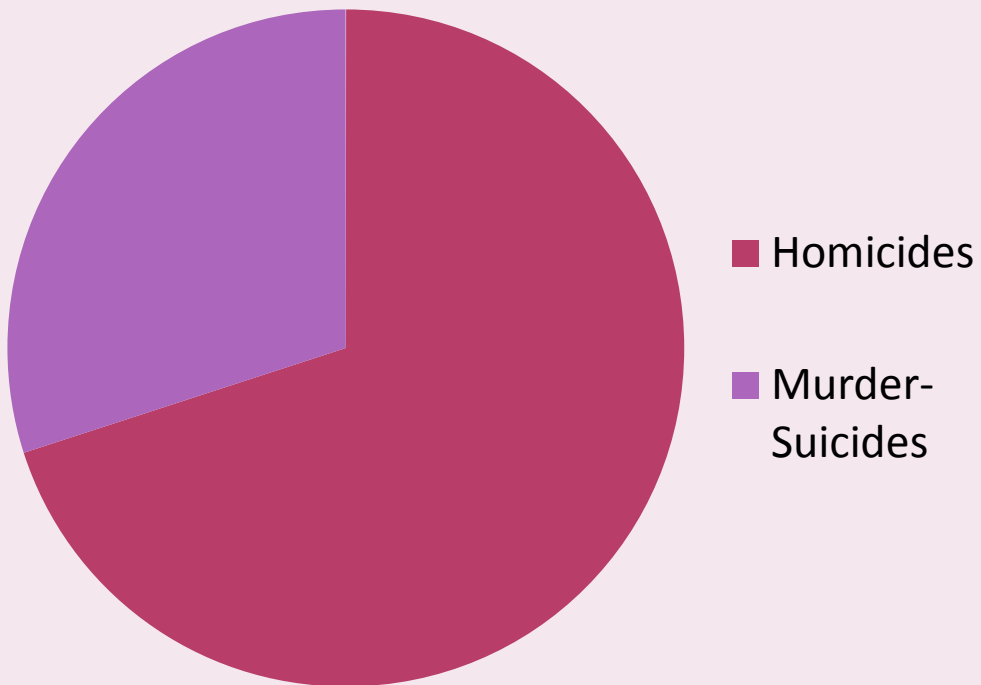
Relationship of Perpetrator to Victim

- Domestic violence endangers not only the victim of the abuse but also the close friends and family members of the victim. Children, siblings, friends and current partners of abused women are all part of the domestic violence homicide count in North Carolina.
- The majority of the perpetrators were a current or former male partner of a female victim.
- The domestic violence victim was often not safe even after separating from the abuser. Leaving an intimate partner is a dangerous prospect for battered women. Eleven victims were killed by an estranged husband or ex-boyfriend in 2009.
- Four domestic violence homicides were perpetrated by a male parent or guardian of the victim (father or stepfather).

Murder Suicides

30% of homicides were followed by the perpetrators suicide.

A firearm was used in all but one murder-suicide.

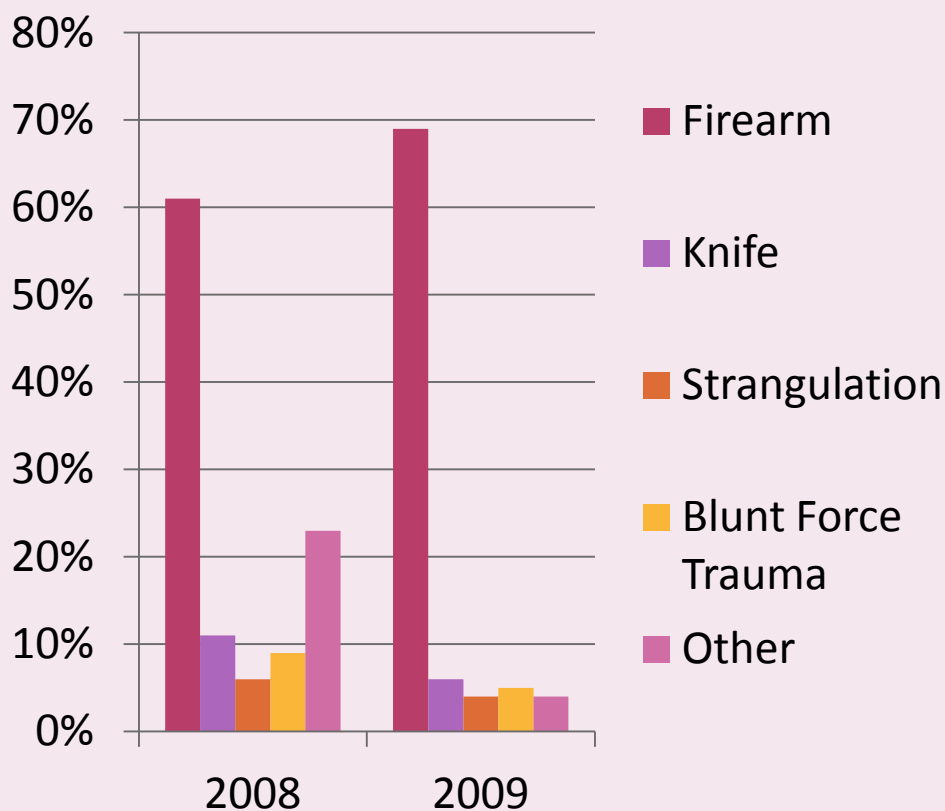


Impact on Children

- 3 children were killed in North Carolina in 2009 as a result of domestic violence.
- Two victims, 15 and 17 years old, were killed by their father.
- In one incident, the perpetrator killed his wife and stepson, then committed suicide.
- We know of at least 6 children who witnessed a domestic violence homicide in which their parent was murdered. In three of these homicides, the children's mother was murdered; in one of the homicides, the child's father was murdered. In addition to witnessing the murder of their parent, 4 children also witnessed the suicide or attempted suicide of the perpetrator. Undoubtedly, there were many more child witnesses to domestic violence homicides that we could not confirm.

Type of Weapon

Firearm violence accounted for the majority of domestic violence homicides in both 2008 and 2009.



Domestic Violence Homicide Rates per 100,000 by County in North Carolina

County	Total Homicides	Population	Homicide Rate/100,000
Moore	10	87158	11.473
Gates	1	11768	8.497
Pamlico	1	12422	8.050
McDowell	3	43988	6.820
Alexander	2	36777	5.438
Yancey	1	18548	5.391
Person	2	37667	5.309
Franklin	3	60088	4.992
Sampson	3	63713	4.708
Vance	2	43056	4.645
Hoke	2	45148	4.429
Surry	3	72496	4.138
Caldwell	3	79914	3.754
Halifax	2	54582	3.664
Lee	2	60477	3.307
Burke	3	89548	3.350
Durham	8	269706	2.966

Domestic Violence Homicide Rates per 100,000 by County in North Carolina, Continued

County	Total Homicides	Population	Homicide rate/100,000
Onslow	5	173064	2.889
Scotland	1	36292	2.755
Wayne	3	113811	2.635
Buncombe	6	231452	2.592
Wilson	3	78353	3.828
Davie	1	41420	2.414
Cumberland	7	315207	2.220
Richmond	1	45970	2.175
Stokes	1	46150	2.166
Randolph	3	142151	2.110
Craven	2	98529	2.029
Alamance	3	150358	1.995
Iredell	3	158153	1.896
Mecklenburg	17	913639	1.860
Edgecombe	1	51853	1.928
Cabarrus	3	172223	1.741
Lenoir	1	56387	1.773

Domestic Violence Homicide Rates per 100,000 by County in North Carolina, Continued

County	Total Homicides	Population	Homicide rate/100,000
Granville	1	57639	1.734
Orange	2	129083	1.549
Robeson	2	129559	1.543
Wilkes	1	66555	1.502
Lincoln	1	76043	1.315
Catawba	2	159125	1.256
Forsyth	4	359638	1.112
Wake	10	897214	1.114
Rockingham	1	92252	1.083
New Hanover	2	195085	1.025
Cleveland	1	99274	1.007
Pitt	1	159057	0.628
Gatson	1	208958	0.478
Guilford	2	480362	0.416

*There were no domestic violence homicides in Anson, Ashe, Brunswick, Chatham, Chowan, Columbus, Dare, Davidson, Duplin, Graham, Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hertford, Jackson, Johnston, Madison, Martin, Mitchell, Montgomery, Pasquotank, Pender, Polk, Rowan, Rutherford, Washington, or Yadkin Counties.

Resources

- If you are in need of emergency assistance, call 911.
- For support and assistance, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-SAFE (7233).
- Domestic violence programs serve all 100 counties in North Carolina. To find the number of your local program in North Carolina, please visit www.nccadv.org .
- For information on domestic violence and how you can help, call the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 888-232-9124.