

# North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence  
Homicide Report  
2010



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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 Elizabeth Hopkins of the University of North Carolina School of Law. Her support and work was invaluable in the creation of this report.

## 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: 2010 Summary

- There were 73 domestic violence homicides in North Carolina in 2010.
- Most of these homicides were perpetrated by men, and most of the victims were women.
- There were 16 children present during homicides, and 5 of these children were victims themselves.
- 11 of the perpetrators were under 25 years of age.
- 68% of the domestic violence homicides were committed using a firearm.

# Homicides 2002-2009

Between 2002-2010, NCCADV tracked 693 domestic violence related homicides.

The average number of homicides perpetrated annually is 77.

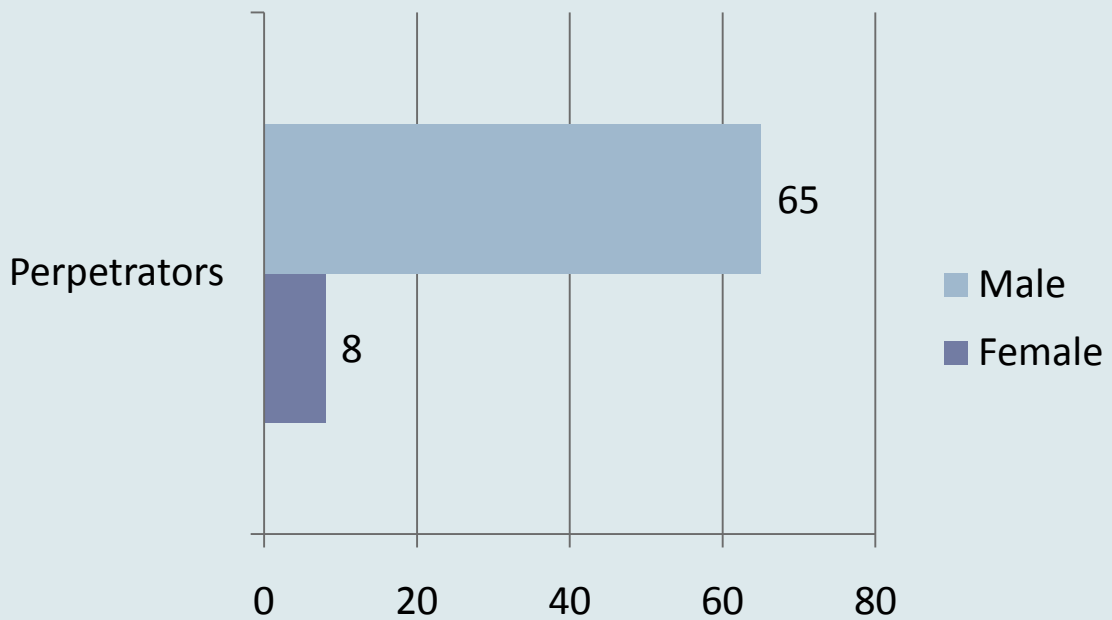
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Homicides	79	72	81	72	80	86	80	70	73

# Perpetrators by Sex

65 alleged perpetrators were male

8 alleged perpetrators were female

6 alleged perpetrators committed 14 homicides

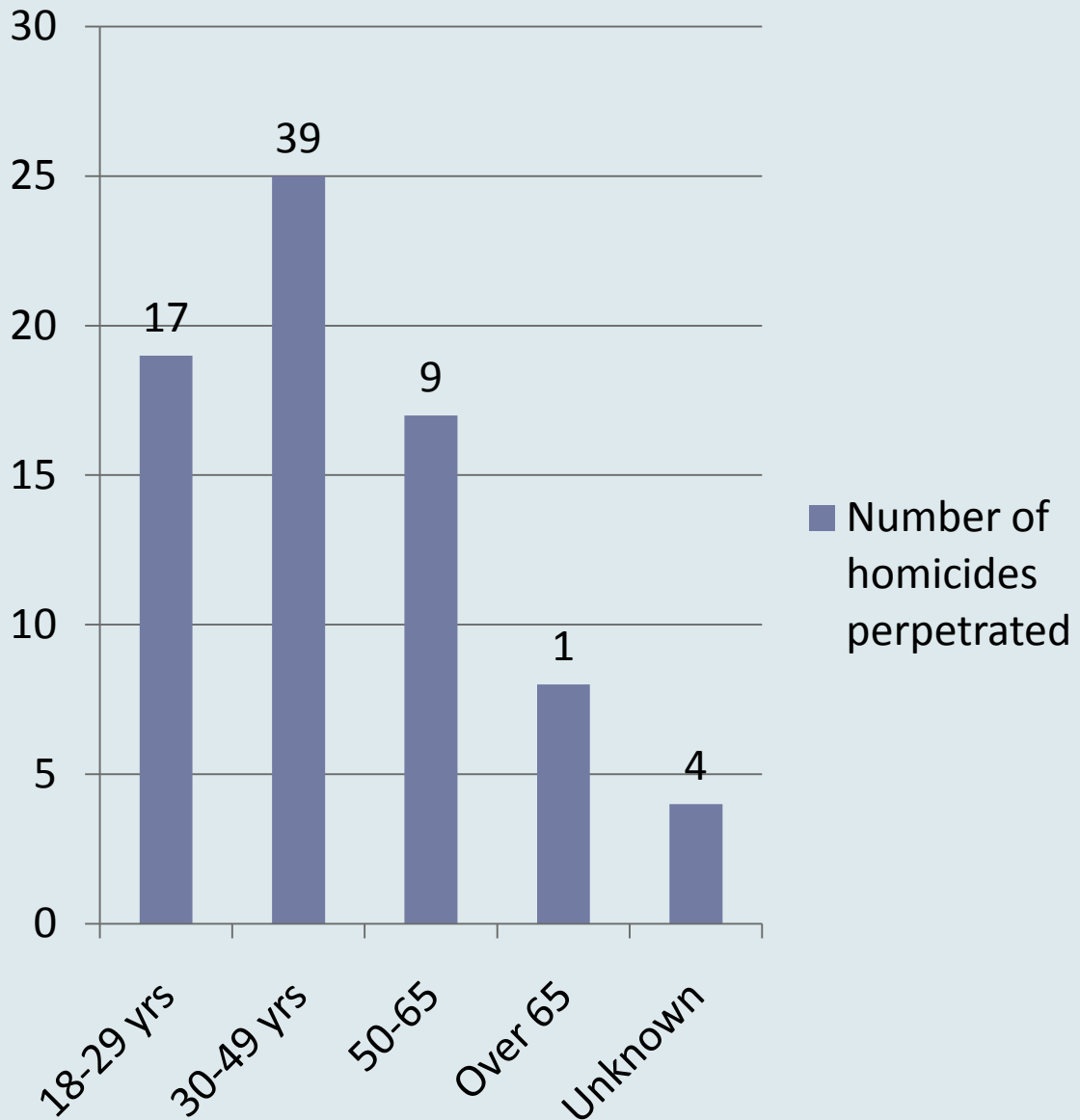


# Perpetrators by Age

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

34% of homicides were committed by alleged perpetrators between 30-49

40% of homicides were committed by alleged perpetrators 50 and over



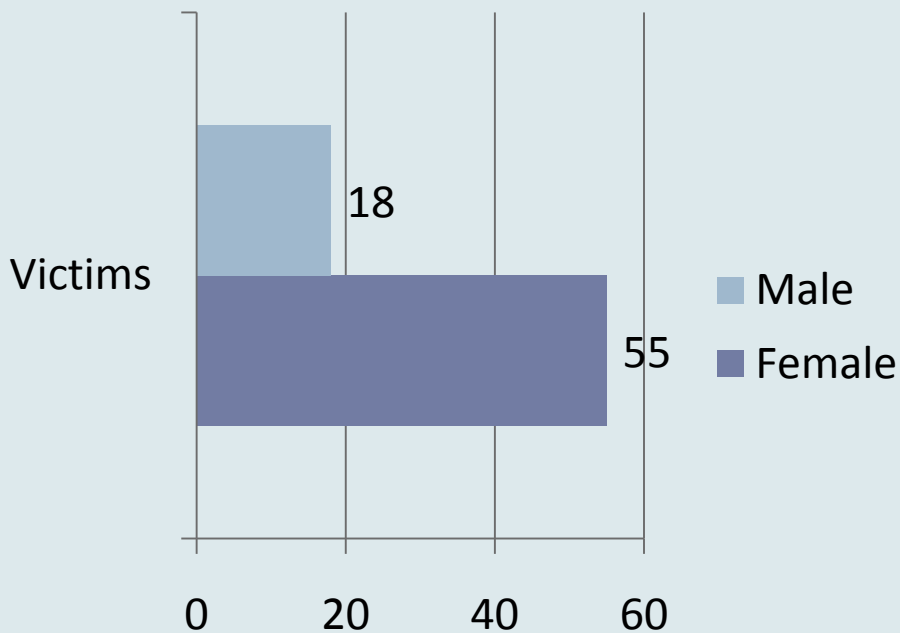


# Victims by Sex

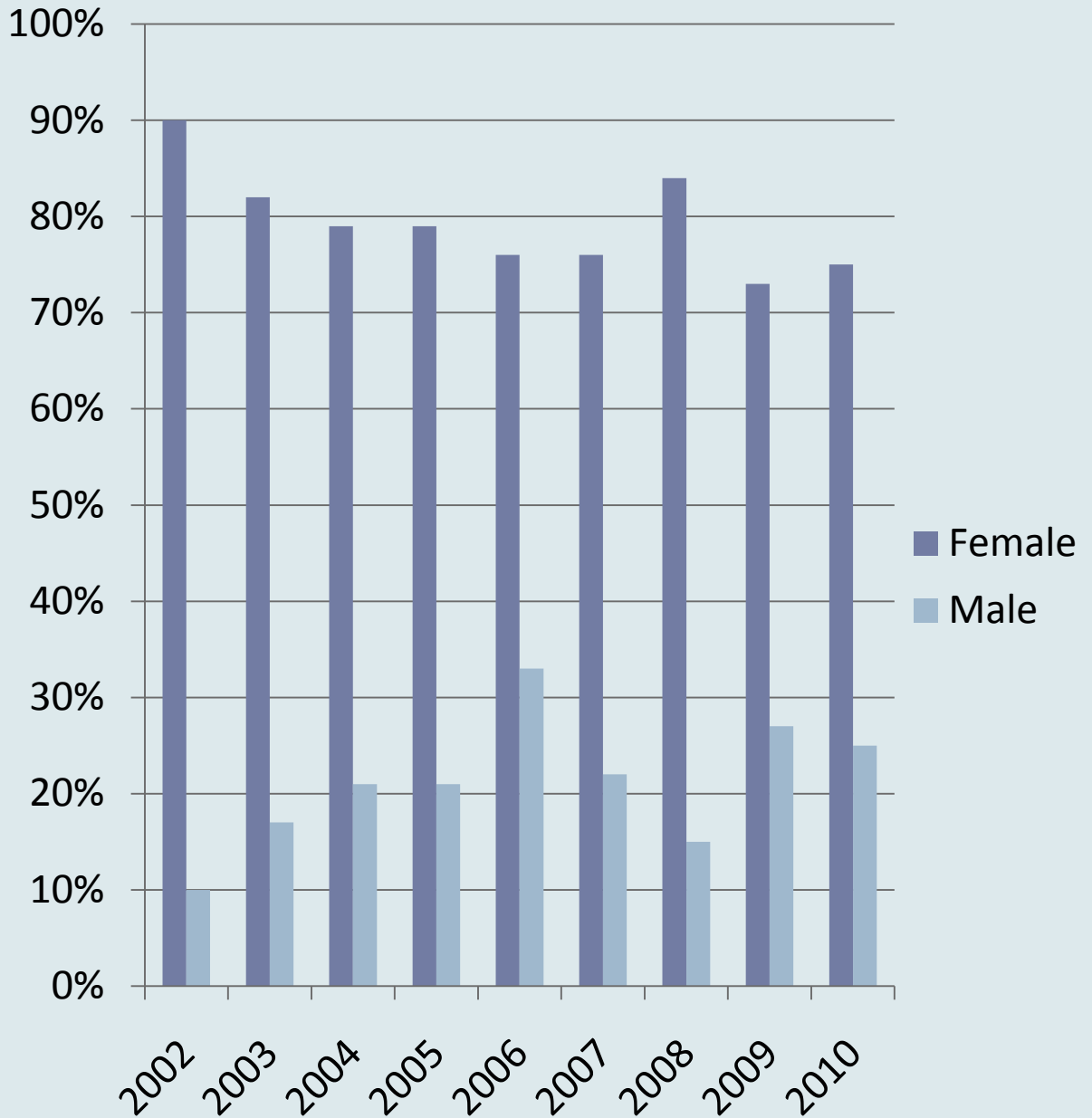
Every year, the number of women killed as a result of domestic violence far exceeds the number of men killed.

55 of the victims were female

18 of the victims were male



# Sex of Victim: 2002-2010



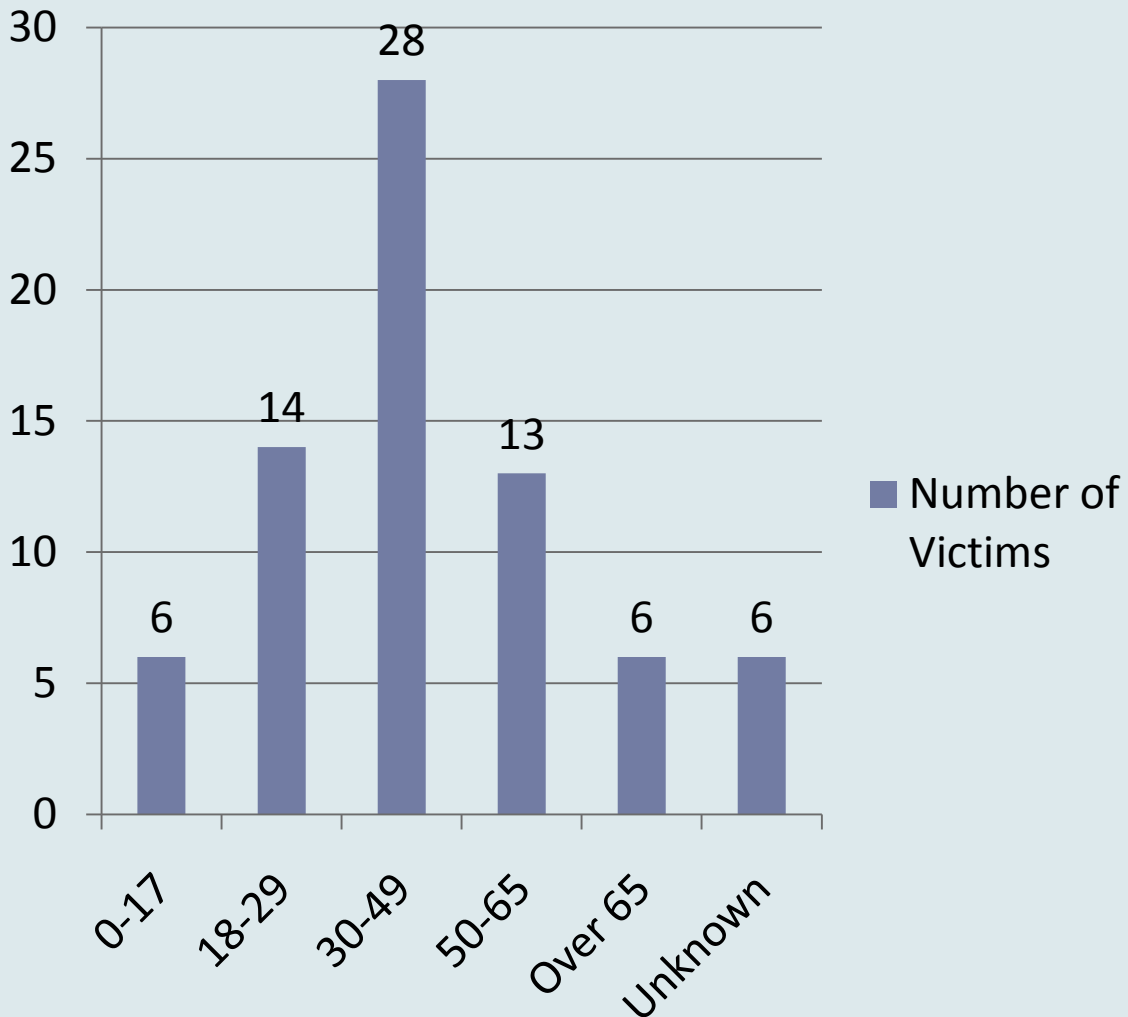
# Age of Victim

9% of victims were between 0-17

21% of victims were between 18-29

42% of victims were between 30-49

28% of victims were 50 and over



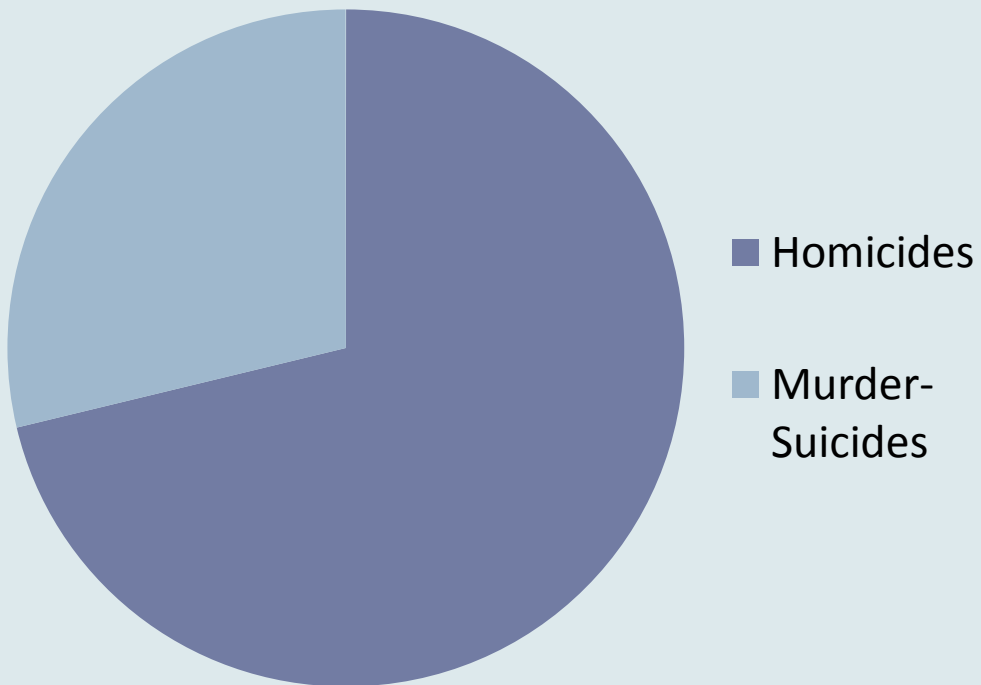
# Relationship of Perpetrator to Victim

- 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. Five victims were killed by an estranged husband or ex-boyfriend in 2010.
- Six domestic violence homicides were perpetrated against a child by a male parent, guardian, or current partner of the victim's mother.

# Murder-Suicides

34% of homicides were followed by the perpetrators suicide.

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

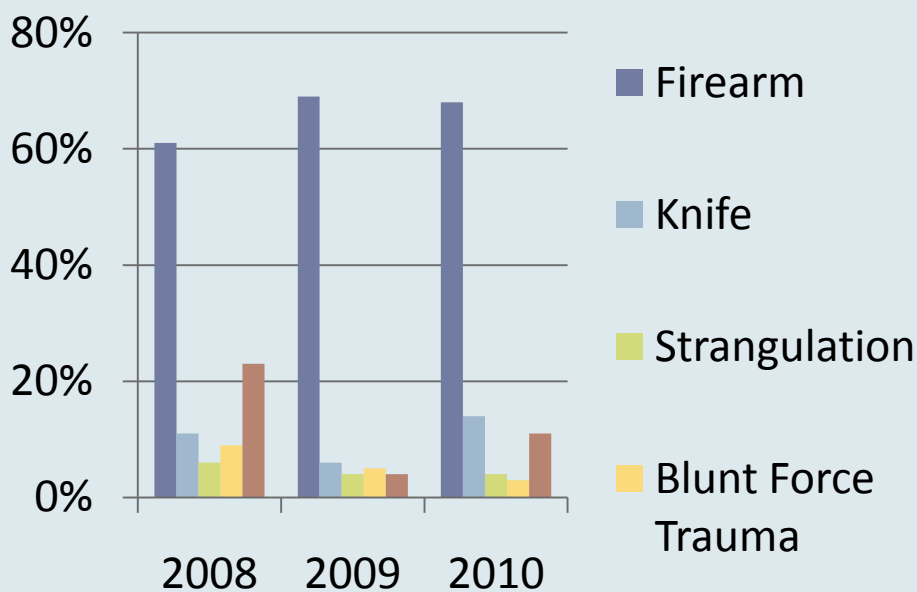


# Impact on Children

- 6 children were killed in North Carolina in 2010 as a result of domestic violence.
- Three victims, ages 1, 3 and 6 were killed by their father.
- Two victims, ages 4 and 15 were killed by their mother's male partner.
- In one incident, the perpetrator killed his female partner, his two children, then committed suicide.
- In another incident, the perpetrator killed his female partner, one of his children, one of his partner's children, then committed suicide.
- We know of at least 16 children who witnessed a domestic violence related homicide. In addition to witnessing the homicide, 4 children also witnessed the 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 2008, 2009 and 2010.



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

County	Total Homicides	Population	Homicide rate/100,000
Yancey	1	18548	5.391417
Greene	1	20658	4.840740
Watauga	2	45479	4.397634
Beaufort	2	46414	4.309045
Hertford	1	23283	4.294979
Currituck	1	24216	4.129501
Ashe	1	25812	3.874167
Halifax	2	54582	3.664212
Haywood	2	57109	3.502075
Person	1	37667	2.654844
Yadkin	1	37713	2.651606
Davie	1	41420	2.414293
Gaston	5	208958	2.392825
Johnston	4	168525	2.373535
McDowell	1	43988	2.273347



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

County	Total Homicides	Population	Homicide rate/100,000
Cumberland	7	315207	2.220763
Rockingham	2	92252	2.167975
Cleveland	2	99274	2.014626
Davidson	3	158582	1.891766
Duplin	1	53,177	1.880512
Brunswick	2	107062	1.868076
Columbus	1	54221	1.844304
Granville	1	57639	1.734936
Onslow	3	173064	1.733463
Harnett	2	115751	1.727847
Stanly	1	59794	1.672409
Lee	1	60477	1.653521
Rowan	2	140798	1.420475
Wilson	1	78353	1.276275
Moore	1	87158	1.147342

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

County	Total Homicides	Population	Homicide rate/100,000
Nash	1	94743	1.055487
Wayne	1	113811	0.87865
Mecklenburg	8	913639	0.875619
Buncombe	2	231452	0.86411
Forsyth	3	359638	0.834172
Iredell	1	158153	0.632299
Catawba	1	159125	0.628437
New Hanover	1	195085	0.512597
Wake	4	897214	0.445825
Durham	1	269706	0.370774
Guilford	1	480362	0.208176

# Resources

- If you are in need of emergency assistance, call 911.
- For support and assistance, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline 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](http://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.