

# **Police Statistics on Homicide Victims in New Zealand 2007 - 2014**



## **A Summary of Statistics about Victims of Murder, Manslaughter, and Infanticide**

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# Introduction

## Background

Each month New Zealand Police releases Official Statistics on crime victimisation and offending at [www.policedata.nz](http://www.policedata.nz).

Homicide statistics are not included in the monthly release of statistics on victims because homicide investigations typically take many months to investigate and finalise. Accordingly, data in Police systems on homicides does not stabilise for many months. So, rather than include homicide statistics in the regular monthly releases, homicide data are collated annually into this Homicide Victims Report.

Usually this report is published mid-year. However, this edition has been produced later than usual, due to major system changes that occurred in 2016.

## Purpose

This report is not intended as a comprehensive study on the various contexts in which homicides occur. Rather, it provides some descriptive statistics that complement other sources of information such as:

- Recorded Crime Victims Statistics,
- Recorded Crime Offenders Statistics,
- The New Zealand Crime and Safety Survey, and
- Relevant research publications and government reports.

Specifically, this report presents simple descriptive statistics about:

- Who has been killed,
- The relationship between the victim and offender,
- What type of location people were killed in, and
- What type of weapon (if any) was used.

The report does not include descriptions of offenders. Such information is provided in Recorded Crime Offenders Statistics published on [policedata.nz](http://policedata.nz). Neither does it describe either the contexts in which homicides occur or the policy implications for Police or other agencies. Such information is beyond the scope of this report.

## **Limitations of Homicide data**

Police in New Zealand investigate all suspicious deaths. Such investigations can take many months to conclude. Current statistics for 2015 and 2016 will therefore include many cases where an investigation is still continuing. Although a death may appear suspicious at first, investigations may conclude that the death was not homicide.

For this reason, this main body of the report only provides statistics from 2007 to 2014. Most investigations into homicides between these years will have been completed and the data are therefore considered stable.

Statistics about the victims of Homicide offences that occurred in 2015 have been included as an appendix to this report (Appendix A). However, the reader should note that the 2015 figures are not yet stable, as some of these investigations are still continuing, and Police records are still being updated with new information. Updated figures for 2015 will be included in the main body of future editions of this report, after they have stabilised.

## **Queries Relating to this Report**

Questions about this report can be directed to the Data Analytics Team, Strategy Group, Police National Headquarters through the following channels:

Email: [data@police.govt.nz](mailto:data@police.govt.nz)

Phone: 04 460 2999

## Data

### Offence type

As shown in Table 2.1 below, the number of homicide victims has remained stable between 62 and 64 per annum for each of the last four years. The majority of victims in all the years were murdered, and the majority of victims were male. This gender gap in homicide victims has widened over time. In 2013 and 2014 there were fewer female victims than in any prior year contained in this report.

Table 2.1

	2013			2014		
	M	F	2013	M	F	2014
<b>Murder</b>	36	12	<b>48</b>	31	14	<b>45</b>
<b>Manslaughter</b>	13	1	<b>14</b>	12	7	<b>19</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>

	2010				2011			2012		
	M	F	U <sup>1</sup>	2010	M	F	2011	M	F	2012
<b>Murder</b>	19	22	1	<b>42</b>	23	15	<b>38</b>	19	24	<b>43</b>
<b>Manslaughter</b>	23	11	0	<b>34</b>	17	7	<b>24</b>	15	6	<b>21</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>64</b>

	2007			2008			2009		
	M	F	2007	M	F	2008	M	F	2009
<b>Murder</b>	29	22	<b>51</b>	29	22	<b>51</b>	43	24	<b>67</b>
<b>Manslaughter</b>	10	7	<b>17</b>	13	6	<b>19</b>	20	6	<b>26</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>93</b>

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<sup>1</sup> U = unborn child

## Age of victim

Victims are spread across all ages. However, as shown in Table 2.2 below, this spread is not even. There were 5 homicide victims under five years of age in 2014.

**Table 2.2**

	2013			2014		
	M	F	2013	M	F	2014
Under 5 yr	4	0	4	3	2	5
Age 5-9	1	0	1	2	1	3
Age 10-14	0	0	0	0	1	1
Age 15-19	6	0	6	5	3	8
Age 20-29	10	1	11	9	2	11
Age 30-39	5	6	11	10	0	10
Age 40-49	12	3	15	5	3	8
Age 50-59	7	1	8	7	7	14
60 and above	4	2	6	2	2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>

	2010				2011			2012		
	M	F	U	2010	M	F	2011	M	F	2012
Under 5 yr	2	3	1	6	6	4	10	2	7	9
Age 5-9	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age 10-14	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	0
Age 15-19	4	2	0	6	3	3	6	3	1	4
Age 20-29	11	7	0	18	5	4	9	9	6	15
Age 30-39	6	3	0	9	4	0	4	6	7	13
Age 40-49	6	6	0	12	10	5	15	1	5	6
Age 50-59	7	5	0	12	9	1	10	4	3	7
60 and above	6	6	0	12	2	2	4	9	1	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>64</b>

	2007			2008			2009		
	M	F	2007	M	F	2008	M	F	2009
Under 5 yr	2	8	10	3	1	4	6	6	12
Age 5-9	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Age 10-14	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	1
Age 15-19	2	2	4	4	3	7	11	4	15
Age 20-29	15	6	21	9	8	17	12	5	17
Age 30-39	9	3	12	9	5	14	15	6	21
Age 40-49	6	2	8	6	4	10	11	8	19
Age 50-59	3	3	6	3	3	6	3	0	3
60 and above	2	4	6	6	3	9	3	1	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>93</b>

## Ethnicity of victim

As shown in Table 2.3, on average Maori and European together make up around three quarters of all homicide victims.

European is the largest ethnic group within New Zealand. So, it does not follow that Europeans<sup>2</sup> are over-represented in these statistics. Maori, however, are over-represented in these statistics, as Maori make up approximately only one seventh of New Zealand's population.

**Table 2.3**

	2013			2014		
	M	F	2013	M	F	2014
Asian	1	1	2	0	2	2
European	18	5	23	23	6	29
Indian	4	1	5	2	3	5
Maori	19	6	25	12	3	15
Pacific Isle	3	0	3	2	2	4
Other / Unknown	4	0	4	4	5	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>

	2010				2011			2012		
	M	F	U <sup>3</sup>	2010	M	F	2011	M	F	2012
Asian	1	1	0	2	4	0	4	1	0	1
European	14	17	0	31	17	9	26	19	14	33
Indian	1	2	0	3	1	2	3	0	1	1
Maori	16	8	0	24	12	6	18	10	4	14
Pacific Isle	3	1	0	4	4	2	6	1	2	3
Other / Unknown	7	4	1	12	2	3	5	3	9	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>64</b>

	2007			2008			2009		
	M	F	2007	M	F	2008	M	F	2009
Asian	0	5	5	2	3	5	3	1	4
European	22	8	30	18	10	28	23	8	31
Indian	0	3	3	2	0	2	3	1	4
Maori	12	9	21	9	8	17	26	13	39
Pacific Isle	1	0	1	4	2	6	4	1	5
Other / Unknown	4	4	8	7	5	12	4	6	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>93</b>

<sup>2</sup> New Zealand Police collects Ethnicity data according to different categories than does Statistics New Zealand. So, it is difficult to precisely estimate the proportion of New Zealand's population that makes up each ethnic group according to New Zealand Police categories.

<sup>3</sup> U: The gender of the victim was not recorded

## Relationship of victim to offender <sup>4</sup>

Table 2.4 presents figures based on the victim's relationship to the offender. The offender is not always identified by police, and the victim's relationship to the offender is not always clear or recorded. In instances where the relationship between victim and offender is not recorded, this is likely to be because they are not closely related<sup>5</sup>.

Across eight years, 54 of the 559 homicide victims were the Child of the offender. However, only 15 victims were a Parent of the offender.

The majority of homicide victims were males killed by non-family members. There were far fewer female than male homicide victims, just over a third of whom (13% of all homicide victims) were killed by their partner.

**Table 2.4**

	2013			2014		
	M	F	2013	M	F	2014
Couple	4	7	11	2	6	8
Parent	2	2	4	1	1	2
Child	1	0	1	3	4	7
Other family	2	1	3	1	0	1
Not family but linked to family	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not family - other	27	1	28	27	8	35
Not recorded / unclear	13	2	15	9	2	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>

  

	2010				2011			2012		
	M	F	U	2010	M	F	2011	M	F	2012
Couple	4	10	0	14	2	9	11	3	13	16
Parent	2	1	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	1
Child	1	3	1	5	6	2	8	2	6	8
Other family	6	0	0	6	2	2	4	1	0	1
Not family but linked to family	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	2
Not family - other	28	18	0	46	22	6	28	19	5	24
Not recorded / unclear	0	1	0	1	7	2	9	7	5	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>64</b>

<sup>4</sup> Refer to Appendix B for the relationship definitions.

<sup>5</sup> Subsequent commentary therefore presumes the offender was not related to the victim in instances where the offender is unknown or not recorded in police data. Whereas this assumption will usually be true, there are likely to be some instances when it is not.



	2007			2008			2009		
	M	F	2007	M	F	2008	M	F	2009
Couple	4	8	12	1	6	7	4	14	18
Parent	2	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1
Child	0	6	6	3	2	5	8	6	14
Other family	2	4	6	3	1	4	7	1	8
Not family but linked to family	3	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	1
Not family - other	24	11	35	32	17	49	41	9	50
Not recorded / unclear	4	0	4	1	2	3	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>93</b>

## Weapon

Most homicide victims were not killed with weapons. Only one in 10 homicides involved firearms.

Across eight years, less than 9% of the Manslaughter victims were killed with a weapon.

Table 2.5

	2013			2014		
	Mur	Man	2013	Mur	Man	2014
Firearm	8	2	10	6	0	6
Stabbing / Cutting Weapon	20	0	20	16	0	16
Other Weapon	6	0	6	9	0	9
No Weapon	14	12	26	14	19	33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>64</b>

	2010			2011			2012		
	Mur	Man	2010	Mur	Man	2011	Mur	Man	2012
Firearm	7	1	8	3	0	3	3	1	4
Stabbing / Cutting Weapon	17	1	18	16	0	16	13	0	13
Other Weapon	7	3	10	5	1	6	11	1	12
No Weapon	11	29	40	14	23	37	16	19	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>

	2007			2008			2009		
	Mur	Man	2007	Mur	Man	2008	Mur	Man	2009
Firearm	6	0	6	7	0	7	11	1	12
Stabbing / Cutting Weapon	16	0	16	14	1	15	17	0	17
Other Weapon	11	1	12	12	0	12	13	1	14
No Weapon	18	16	34	18	18	36	26	24	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>93</b>

## Location

Most homicides occurred either in dwellings or outdoor public places.

**Table 2.6**

	2013		
	Mur	Man	2013
Dwelling	34	6	40
Public Road / Street / Public Place	13	5	18
Other / Unknown	1	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>62</b>

2014		
Mur	Man	2014
32	4	36
5	10	15
8	5	13
<b>45</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>64</b>

	2010		
	Mur	Man	2010
Dwelling	31	9	40
Public Road / Street / Public Place	7	24	31
Other / Unknown	4	1	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>76</b>

2011		
Mur	Man	2011
30	9	39
6	14	20
2	1	3
<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>62</b>

2012		
Mur	Man	2012
27	10	37
12	9	21
4	2	6
<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>

	2007		
	Mur	Man	2007
Dwelling	28	6	34
Public Road / Street / Public Place	16	9	25
Other / Unknown	7	2	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>68</b>

2008		
Mur	Man	2008
28	3	31
18	13	31
5	3	8
<b>51</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>70</b>

2009		
Mur	Man	2009
56	6	62
9	18	27
2	2	4
<b>67</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>93</b>

## Appendix A: Figures for the 2015 calendar year

The following tables present descriptive statistics about the homicide victims killed in 2015. These figures give a snapshot of data in Police systems as at 01 February 2017.

As discussed earlier in this report, Police investigations are still continuing into some of these cases. As a result, data in Police systems will continue to change. It is likely to take up to two years before figures stabilise. Caution should therefore be observed when comparing figures in this appendix with figures in the main body of the report.

### Offence type

Table A.1	Male	Female	Total
<b>Murder</b>	32	17	<b>49</b>
<b>Manslaughter</b>	10	6	<b>16</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>65</b>

### Age of victim

Table A.2	Male	Female	Total
<b>Under 5 years of age</b>	8	6	<b>14</b>
<b>Age 5-9</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Age 10-14</b>	3	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Age 15-19</b>	1	1	<b>2</b>
<b>Age 20-29</b>	8	6	<b>14</b>
<b>Age 30-39</b>	7	2	<b>9</b>
<b>Age 40-49</b>	5	3	<b>8</b>
<b>Age 50-59</b>	4	3	<b>7</b>
<b>Age 60 and above</b>	5	2	<b>7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>65</b>

### Ethnicity of victim

Table A.3	Male	Female	Total
<b>Asian</b>	0	2	<b>2</b>
<b>European</b>	17	9	<b>26</b>
<b>Indian</b>	0	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Maori</b>	20	3	<b>23</b>
<b>Pacific Island</b>	2	1	<b>3</b>
<b>Other/Unknown</b>	3	6	<b>9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>65</b>

## Relationship of victim to offender

Table A.4	Male	Female	Total
Couple	1	5	6
Parent	2	5	7
Child	7	3	10
Other family	4	0	4
Not family but linked to family	0	0	0
Not family – other	20	6	26
Not recorded / unclear	8	4	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>65</b>

## Weapon

Table A.5	Murder	Manslaughter	Total
Firearm	7	2	9
Stabbing / Cutting Weapon	15	0	15
Other Weapon	12	0	12
No weapon	15	14	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>65</b>

## Location

Table A.6	Murder	Manslaughter	Total
Dwelling	36	8	44
Public Road / Street / Public Place	9	4	13
Other / Unknown	4	4	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>65</b>

## **Appendix B: Relationship Definitions**

### **Couple**

'Couple' is defined as being where the victim and offender are or have been recognised by society/their associates, as a couple. It includes married, de facto, civil union, separated, divorced and boy/girl friend not living together. This definition does not take into account age, gender or sexual relationship. It would include, for example young adolescents whose school classmates consider them to be boy/girl friend. It would exclude people who are not a couple, but have had sexual intercourse, such as in prostitution, a one-off sexual encounter, or one or more illicit sexual encounters.

### **Parent**

'Parent' is defined as being where the victim was a biological, adoptive or foster parent of the offender. It also includes the de facto partner of the offender's biological parent, provided the victim and offender live together, or have lived together when the offender was a child. It does not include the boy/girl friend of the offender's mother/father where the boy/girl friend does not live with the mother/father and offender.

### **Child**

'Child' is defined as being where the victim was a biological, adopted or foster child of the offender. It also includes the biological child of the de facto partner of the offender, provided the victim and offender live together, or have lived together when the victim was a child. It does not include the child of the boy/girl friend of the victim's mother/father where the boy/girl friend does not live with the mother/father and victim. 'Child' in this table, refers to the relationship, not the age of the victim. It therefore includes adults.

### **Family**

'Family' is defined as it would be colloquially understood internationally. It includes siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles and cousins. It excludes friends of the victim/offender's parents who may be referred to as uncle/aunt.

## **Other Family**

'Other family' excludes victims who have been counted in the categories of 'Couple', 'Parent', and 'Child'. Note: Boy/girl friend relationships, although counted in this report as 'Couple', may not necessarily be 'Family'. So, it is not possible from this report to determine how many victims were in the same 'Family' as their offender(s).

## **Not family but linked to family**

'Not family but linked to family' is defined as the victim and offender not being 'Family', but each having one of the above four relationships to a third person. For example, this would include a victim who is killed by her spouse's ex-spouse. It would also include a victim who is the new boy/girl friend of the offenders mother/father.

## **Not family - other**

'Not family - other' includes both victims who know their killer and those to whom the killer is a stranger.