

## Data Summary: Family Violence Deaths

This data summary is one of six produced by the NZFVC in 2017. The other five data summaries are concerned with Violence Against Women, Children and Youth affected by Family Violence, Child Sexual Abuse, Adult Sexual Violence, and Child Sexual Abuse and Adult Sexual Violence – Perpetration by Gender. Contained in this data summary are data about homicide and mortality attributed to family violence in New Zealand.

In the 2012 Family Violence Deaths data summary,<sup>1</sup> we explored differences in figures obtained from different sources and the reasons these differences existed. Since the 2013 Family Violence Deaths data summary,<sup>2</sup> we have highlighted the terminology used by different sources in order to obtain comparable figures. The contents of this data summary cover two main areas – a brief introduction about how *culpable homicide* related to family violence is defined by various agencies and an overview of family violence death data in New Zealand.

### *Information sources:*

- Family Violence Death Review Committee<sup>3,4</sup>
- New Zealand Police Homicide Victim Reports<sup>5,6,7,8,9</sup>
- Data from the Ministry of Health Mortality Collection<sup>10</sup>

### ***An important note on interpreting the data***

The data in this summary are drawn from national administrative data sets. The data contained in this data summary cannot be used to comment on trends in the occurrence of family violence over time due to variability in data collection and reporting systems over time. For a detailed discussion of the process for collecting data, changes over time and the uses of government agency data for understanding community experiences of family violence, see *Family Violence Indicators* (2013).<sup>11</sup>

In general we have allowed the tables to speak for themselves, providing the minimal commentary.

All numbers in the tables are rounded to the nearest whole number unless otherwise stated. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

A link to the definitions for all of the terms used, and caveats for all of the data can be accessed by clicking on the title of each table.

### ***Culpable Homicide Definition***

[New Zealand Police](#) have referred to 'culpable homicide' as a death where the killer(s) is (are) liable for *murder, manslaughter or infanticide*.

Deaths that have been classified as related to an 'assault' in the Mortality Collection have also been presented in this data summary.



## Family Violence Death Data

Data from 2014 and 2015 are provisional, as many of these investigations are continuing, and records are continuing to be updated.

### Summary of Family Violence Homicides

Source	Definition	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<a href="#">Family Violence Death Review Committee</a> <sup>3,4</sup>	Family violence deaths out of culpable homicides	28 out of 64 44%	26 out of 66 39%	19 out of 67 28%	44 out of 93 47%	28 out of 76 37%	24 out of 62 39%	26 out of 64 41%	24 out of 62 39%	20 out of 64 31%	28 out of 65 43%
<b>New Zealand Police Statistics</b> <sup>5,6,7,8,9</sup>	Recorded homicide deaths where perpetrator has a family relationship to victim out of total homicide deaths	-	26 out of 68 38%	17 out of 70 24%	41 out of 93 44%	28 out of 76 37%	24 out of 62 39%	26 out of 64 41%	19 out of 62 31%	18 out of 64 28%	27 out of 65 42%
<b>Ministry of Health Mortality Collection Data</b> <sup>10</sup>	Deaths due to assault by a family member out of total deaths due to assault	-	-	10 out of 53 19%	28 out of 85 33%	19 out of 55 35%	23 out of 53 43%	18 out of 56 32%	22 out of 56 39%	16 out of 45 36%	-

## Mortality Collection

### Death due to [Assault](#) by Perpetrator Code<sup>10</sup>

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>45</b>
Family Member Perpetrator	10 19%	28 33%	19 35%	23 43%	18 32%	22 41%	16 36%
Other Perpetrator	29 55%	27 31%	23 42%	15 26%	13 23%	17 31%	15 33%
Unspecified Perpetrator	14 26%	29 35%	13 24%	16 30%	26 45%	15 28%	14 31%



## New Zealand Police

### Gender of homicide victim and [relationship](#) to offender<sup>5,6,7,8,9</sup>

	2009			2010				2011			2012			2013			2014			2015		
	M	F	T	M	F	U	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
<b>TOTAL HOMICIDES</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>93</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>	<b>49</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>TOTAL FAMILY RELATIONSHIP</b>	20	21	<b>41</b>	13	14	1	<b>28</b>	11	13	<b>24</b>	7	19	<b>26</b>	9	10	<b>19</b>	7	11	<b>18</b>	14	13	<b>27</b>
<i>% OF TOTAL HOMICIDES</i>	32	70	<b>44</b>	31	42	<i>100</i>	<b>37</b>	28	59	<b>39</b>	21	63	<b>41</b>	18	77	<b>31</b>	16	52	<b>28</b>	33	57	<b>42</b>
Couple	4	14	<b>18</b>	4	10	0	<b>14</b>	2	9	<b>11</b>	3	13	<b>16</b>	4	7	<b>11</b>	2	6	<b>8</b>	1	5	<b>6</b>
Parent	1	0	<b>1</b>	2	1	0	<b>3</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>	2	2	<b>4</b>	1	1	<b>2</b>	2	5	<b>7</b>
Child	8	6	<b>14</b>	1	3	1	<b>5</b>	6	2	<b>8</b>	2	6	<b>8</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>	3	4	<b>7</b>	7	3	<b>10</b>
Other family	7	1	<b>8</b>	6	0	0	<b>6</b>	2	2	<b>4</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>	2	1	<b>3</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>	4	0	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL NOT FAMILY</b>	42	9	<b>51</b>	29	18	0	<b>47</b>	22	7	<b>29</b>	20	6	<b>26</b>	27	1	<b>28</b>	27	8	<b>35</b>	20	6	<b>26</b>
<i>% OF TOTAL HOMICIDES</i>	67	30	<b>55</b>	69	55	0	<b>62</b>	55	32	<b>47</b>	59	20	<b>41</b>	55	8	<b>45</b>	63	38	<b>55</b>	48	26	<b>40</b>
Not family but linked to family	1	0	<b>1</b>	1	0	0	<b>1</b>	0	1	<b>1</b>	1	1	<b>2</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
Not family	41	9	<b>50</b>	28	18	0	<b>46</b>	22	6	<b>28</b>	19	5	<b>24</b>	27	1	<b>28</b>	27	8	<b>35</b>	20	6	<b>26</b>
<b>NOT RECORDED / UNCLEAR / NO OFFENDER IDENTIFIED</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>	0	1	0	<b>1</b>	7	2	<b>9</b>	7	5	<b>12</b>	13	2	<b>15</b>	9	2	<b>11</b>	8	4	<b>12</b>
<i>% TOTAL HOMICIDES</i>	2	0	<b>1</b>	0	3	0	<b>1</b>	18	9	<b>15</b>	21	17	<b>19</b>	27	15	<b>24</b>	21	10	<b>17</b>	19	17	<b>18</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>93</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>	<b>49</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>65</b>

<sup>a</sup> M=male, F=female, U=unknown, T=total.

## Special Note Regarding Police Data

### Background

In November 2014 and May 2015 respectively, the New Zealand Police launched the Recorded Crime Victims and Offenders Statistics. The release of this information represents a fundamental shift in counting methods used to produce crime statistics. Whilst in the past information regarding the impact of crime in our society has been largely measured by the number of offences recorded and apprehensions made, this information provided little information about the people affected, or the relationship between the victim and the offender.

Changes over time in Police systems and recording practices have enabled alterations to counting practices employed by the police (for complete details, please refer to "[The transformation of NZ Police crime statistics: New measures and trends](#)"). For example, where "assault against a child" was previously defined using the assault offence code, it is now possible to define such offences by the age of the victim as recorded in the victimisations statistics. As such, a wider range of the types of assault on children can be identified. Where we are interested in assaults against a woman (for example, page 4 of Data Summary 2), we can establish the percent for which an offender was identified (40% in 2016); the percent of assaults perpetrated by family members (77% where the offender was identified in 2016); and the percent perpetrated by either non-family members (15%) or strangers (8%). **Please note that the significant percentage of cases in which no identified offender was recorded in the datasets leads to the possibility that the actual distribution of relationships between victims and perpetrators differs from those presented in the tables.**

There have also been changes in the way apprehensions and resolutions are recorded. The police now provide information on the number of offenders proceeded against (similar to apprehensions). The "method of proceeding" describes the first type of legal action (court or non-court) initiated by the police against a person as a result of an investigation into an offence.



## What does this mean for the data presented in the Data Summaries?

The changed counting rules have resulted in a break in the time series of information available from the Police. As a result, tables that detail recorded and resolved offences finish at 2014. New tables describing victimisations begin in July 2014, and tables describing proceedings against offenders begin in January 2014.

In the 2017 Data Summaries we have chosen to provide both tables where this information is available to allow the reader to understand the level of overlap between the measures and how they differ. Because of the significant differences in counting techniques employed by the police, readers should be careful not to make direct comparisons between data in the old and new tables.

Please refer to the Police Definitions for additional information concerning the definitions of the new terms used. Further information concerning the Recorded Victims and Offender Statistics, as well as the Transformation of NZ Police Crime Statistics can be used following the relevant links (see below).

[Recorded Crime Victims Statistics](#)

[Recorded Crime Offender Statistics](#)

[Transformation of the NZ Police Crime Statistics](#)



## References

- <sup>1</sup> New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse. (2012). [Family Violence Deaths. Data Summaries.](#) Retrieved June 2014.
- <sup>2</sup> New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse. (2013). [Family Violence Deaths. Data Summaries.](#) Retrieved June 2014.
- <sup>3</sup> Family Violence Death Review Committee. (2014). [Fourth Annual Report: January 2013 to December 2013.](#) Wellington: Family Violence Death Review Committee. Retrieved June 2014.
- <sup>4</sup> Family Violence Death Review Committee. (2017). [Fifth Annual Report: January 2009 to December 2015.](#) Wellington: Family Violence Death Review Committee. Retrieved 20 June 2017.
- <sup>5</sup> New Zealand Police. (2011). [Police Statistics on Homicide Victims in New Zealand for the period 2007 – 2008: A Summary of Statistics about Victims of Murder, Manslaughter, and Infanticide.](#) Retrieved 14 April 2014.
- <sup>6</sup> New Zealand Police. (2013). [Police Statistics on Homicide Victims in New Zealand for the period 2007 – 2010: A Summary of Statistics about Victims of Murder, Manslaughter, and Infanticide.](#) Retrieved 24 April 2014.
- <sup>7</sup> New Zealand Police. (2014). [Police Statistics on Homicide Victims in New Zealand for the period 2007 – 2011: A Summary of Statistics about Victims of Murder, Manslaughter, and Infanticide.](#) Retrieved 14 April 2014.
- <sup>8</sup> New Zealand Police. (2015). [Police Statistics on Homicide Victims in New Zealand for the period 2007 – 2012: A Summary of Statistics about Victims of Murder, Manslaughter, and Infanticide.](#) Retrieved 27 May 2015.
- <sup>9</sup> New Zealand Police. (2017). [Police Statistics on Homicide Victims in New Zealand 2007 -2014: A Summary of Statistics about Victims of Murder, Manslaughter, and Infanticide.](#) Retrieved 1 May 2017.
- <sup>10</sup> Information Analyst, Ministry of Health Information Analyst. (2017, March). [Mortality Data Collection Statistics: Personal Communication].
- <sup>11</sup> Gulliver, P., & Fanslow, J. (2013). [Family Violence Indicators: Can administrative data sets be used to measure trends in family violence in New Zealand?](#) Wellington: Families Commission.

