

**AN ANALYSIS OF HOMICIDES
IN GRENADA,
2008 TO 2012**

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Introduction:

Grenada is a small country, both in size and population. Families and communities are close-knit. Given this situation, the occurrence of homicides is quite traumatic and generally plunges the country into a state of, ‘shock and bereavement’.

Globally, the total number of annual deaths estimated by UNODC to be homicides in 2010 was 468,000. More than a third (36 per cent) of those are estimated to have occurred in Africa, 31 per cent in the Americas, 27 per cent in Asia, 5 per cent in Europe and 1 per cent in Oceania.

This paper presents a statistical analytical overview of homicides in Grenada for the period 1 January 2008 to 10 October 2012. It examines the number of homicides committed during the period under review, age and status of victims and perpetrators of homicides, dates (months and time of day) of the homicides, and parishes where these incidents occurred. It does not examine factors which influenced these homicides, nor does it provide strategies to prevent or reduce homicides.

In this paper, homicide is defined as the killing of a human being by another human being. (*Understanding Criminal Law, Sixth Edition, LexisNexis*)

Rate of Homicides¹:

Some 40 per cent of countries have homicide rates under 3 per 100,000 population, while in 17 per cent of countries it is greater than 20 per 100,000, reaching 50 per 100,000 in some countries and as high as 80 per 100,000 in others. Since 1995, the homicide rate has decreased in many countries, mainly in Asia, Europe and Northern America, to the extent that it can be a relatively rare occurrence. Yet it has increased in others, particularly Central America and the Caribbean, where today it can be seen to be nearing crisis point. The rate of homicides in Grenada is 11.5 per 100,000 persons.

¹ *Global Study On Homicide, UNODC, 2011*

TABLE 1:
RATE OF HOMICIDES IN THE CARIBBEAN²

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	RATE OF HOMICIDE (2008 -2010)
Anguilla	6.8
Antigua and Barbuda	6.8
Bahamas	28.0
Barbados	11.3
British Virgin Islands	8.6
Cayman Islands	11.7
Cuba	4.6
Dominica	22.1
Dominican Republic	24.9
Grenada	11.5
Guadeloupe	7.0
Haiti	6.9
Jamaica	52.1
Martinique	4.2
Montserrat	19.7
Puerto Rico	26.2
Saint Kitts and Nevis	38.2
Saint Lucia	25.2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	22.0
Trinidad and Tobago	35.2
Turks and Caicos Islands	8.9
United States Virgin Islands	39.2

² *Global Study On Homicide, UNODC, 2011*

TABLE 2
NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED AND CHARGED
FOR HOMICIDES³,
1 JANUARY 2008 TO 10 OCTOBER 2012

YEAR	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
2008	19	1	20
2009	8	0	8
2010	11	2	13
2011	12	1	13
2012	16	0	16
TOTAL	66	4	70

TABLE 3
NUMBER OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS,
1 JANUARY 2008 TO 10 OCTOBER 2012

YEAR	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
2008	17	2	19
2009	4	3	7
2010	10	2	12
2011	8	2	10
2012	9	5	14
TOTAL	48	14	62

³ *Criminal Records Office, Royal Grenada Police Force, 2012 (Applicable to Tables 2 to 9)*

TABLE 4

**AGE RANGE OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS,
1 JANUARY 2008 TO 10 OCTOBER 2012**

AGE RANGE (YEARS)	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
0 - 14	2	1	3
15 - 19	5	1	6
20 - 24	7	0	7
25 - 29	6	2	8
30 - 34	4	0	4
35 - 39	6	2	8
40 - 44	2	3	5
45 - 49	3	0	3
50 - 54	6	2	8
55 - 59	2	0	2
60 - 64	1	1	2
65 - 69	2	1	3
70 - 74	0	0	0
75 - 79	2	1	3
TOTAL	48	14	62

TABLE 5

AGES OF PERSONS WHO COMMITTED HOMICIDES,
1 JANUARY 2008 TO 10 OCTOBER 2012

GENDER OF PERPETRATORS COMMITTED HOMICIDE	AGE
Youngest male who committed homicide during the period 1 January 2008 to 4 October 2012	14 years
Youngest female who committed homicide during the period 1 January 2008 to 4 October 2012	17 years
Oldest male who committed homicide during the period 1 January 2008 to 4 October 2012	81 years
Oldest female who committed homicide during the period 1 January 2008 to 4 October 2012	46 years

TABLE 6
AGES OF HOMICIDES, VICTIMS
1 JANUARY 2008 TO 10 OCTOBER 2012

GENDER OF VICTIMS OF HOMICIDE	AGE
Youngest deceased male due to homicide during the period 1 January 2008 to 4 October 2012	Baby boy; 14 years
Youngest deceased female due to homicide during the period 1 January 2008 to 4 October 2012	3 year old; 18 year old
Oldest male deceased due to homicide during the period 1 January 2008 to 4 October 2012	78 year old; 77 year old
Oldest female deceased female due to homicide during the period 1 January 2008 to 4 October 2012	76 years

TABLE 7
NUMBER OF HOMICIDES BY PARISH AND GENDER,
1 JANUARY 2008 TO 10 OCTOBER 2012

PARISH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
St. George's	19	7	26
St. John's	7	0	7
St. Mark's	0	0	0
St. Patrick's	2	0	2
St. Andrew's	14	5	19
St. David's	5	1	6
Carriacou	1	1	2
TOTAL	48	14	62

TABLE 8

NUMBER OF HOMICIDES PER MONTH
1 JANUARY 2008 TO 10 OCTOBER 2012

MONTH	NUMBER OF HOMICIDES
January	5
February	6
March	5
April	6
May	5
June	8
July	10
August	4
September	0
October	3
November	6
December	4
TOTAL	62

TABLE 9

**OCCUPATIONS/STATUS OF
VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS OF HOMICIDES,
1 JANUARY 2008 TO 10 OCTOBER 2012**

OCCUPATIONS/STATUS OF VICTIMS	OCCUPATIONS/STATUS OF PERPETRATORS
Construction Worker	Shopkeeper
Businessman	Builder
Unemployed	Labourer
Auto Body Repair Technician	Construction Worker
Retired Worker	Unemployed
Proprietor	Machine Operator
Bus Conductor	Student
Driver	Teacher
Labourer	Ex-Boyfriend
Businesswoman	Boyfriend
Servant	Sister
Student	Nephew
Teacher	Mother
Steel Bender	Police Officer
Water Taxi Operator	Self-Employed
Cook	Suspected Lunatic
Self-Employed	Plumber
Baby	Mechanic
Mechanic	Fisherman

SITES/VENUES WHERE HOMICIDES WERE COMMITTED,
1 JANUARY 2008 TO 10 OCTOBER 2012

- i. Supermarket, Black bay, St. John's
- ii. Shop
- iii. The Carenage
- iv. Tyre Repair Shop, Calivingy
- v. Bamboo Restaurant & Bar, Black Bay, St. John's
- vi. Beach (Soubise Beach, Point Systan Beach, L Estere, Carriacou
- vii. School (Wesley College, St. George')
- viii. Home/Near their home
- ix. Road/Roadside: (Boca Public Road, Grand Anse Public, Road By road leading to Pearls Air Strip, River Sallee Public Road
- x. Garden
- xi. Bus Terminal, St. George's
- xii. Melville Street Car Park, St. George's
- xiii. Port Highway
- xiv. Kirani James Boulevard
- xv. Her Majesty's Prisons, Richmond Hill
- xvi. St. David's Police Station
- xvii. Quarantine Point
- xviii. Simons Alley, St. George's

Circumstances Surrounding Some Homicides

The deceased was:

- i. pushed him to the ground. (victim and perpetrator were drinking alcohol)
- ii. shot.
- iii. stabbed with a cutlass in the middle of chest.
- iv. stabbed in the back, arm and chest.
- v. stabbed in the right side of his chest.
- vi. stabbed in the middle of his lower back.
- vii. chopped in her neck, left side of cheek, back of head, both breast, left elbow, waist and left hand chop off.
- viii. head was chopped off and brought to the Grenville Police Station.
- ix. drop into a pit latrine.
- x. stabbed all over his body.
- xi. killed then chopped up and buried.
- xii. chopped in the throat with a cutlass.
- xiii. found in some nearby bushes with froth coming her mouth and nostril.
- xiv. beaten all over her body and strangled.
- xv. stabbed with a knife in her neck, her head legs and hands cut off and dumped in garbage bin.
- xvi. stabbed in both eyes with a cutlass.

ANALYSIS OF DATA ON HOMICIDES

Number of Homicides:

- i. 62 homicides (48 males; 14 females) were committed between 1 January 2008 and 10 October 2012.
- ii. 77 % of homicide victims were males; 23 % victims were females.
- iii. Most homicides were committed in 2008. (19 persons)
- iv. Most homicides of males occurred in 2008. (17 males)
- v. Most homicides of females occurred in 2012. (5 females)
- vi. 70 persons (66 males; 4 females) were arrested and charged for offences involving homicides. (murder, manslaughter)
- vii. 5 teenagers (3 males ages 14, 17, 17; 2 females ages 17, 19) committed homicides during the period under review.

Methods Used to Commit Homicides:

- viii. Most homicides were committed by using knives, cutlass, bottle; 1 was due to strangulation; 3 were shot (1 by police, 1 by prison officer, 1 by civilian); 1 was 'dropped in a pit latrine'.
- ix. Chest and neck were the parts of the body most stabbed/chopped during homicides.

Places Where Homicides Were Committed:

- x. Parish of St. George's recorded the highest number of homicides. (19 males; 7 females)

- xi. St. Andrew's had the second highest number of homicides. (14 males; 5 females)
- xii. There were no homicides in the parish of St. Mark's.
- xiii. No females were killed in the parishes of St. John's, St. Mark's and St. Patrick's.
- xiv. Two homicides were committed in Carriacou. (1 male, 2012; 1 female, 2010)
- xv. Villages where most homicides were committed:
 - Soubise: 3
 - Pearls: 3
 - Mt. Rush: 2
 - Black Bay: 2
 - Balthazar: 2 (Double homicide)
 - Ford: 2

Dates (Months, Time) When Homicides Were Committed

- xvi. Time when most homicides were committed:
 - 10 homicides between 6: am and 12:00 am.
 - 10 homicides between 12:01 pm. and 4:00 pm.
 - 18 homicides between 7 pm and 12:00 pm.
 - 5 homicides between 1:00 am and 3: 00 am.
- xvii. Number of homicides per quarter:
 - January to March: 16
 - April to June: 19
 - July to September: 14
 - October to December: 13
- xviii. 35 homicides between the months of January and June, while there were 27 homicides in the months July to December.

- xix. Most homicides committed in the month of July (10), between 2008 and 2012.
- xx. No homicides were committed in the month of September, between 2008 and 2012.
- xxi. Earliest date of the year on which a homicide was committed was 3 January 2012.
- xxii. 3 females killed between 26 July and 1 August 2012.
- xxiii. 2 females killed in two days. (31 July and 1 August 2012)
- xxiv. 32 males between ages 0 to 44 years were killed; while 16 males between 45 to 79 years were killed between 1 January 2008 and 10 October 2012.
- xxv. 9 females between ages 0 to 44 years were killed; while 5 females between 45 to 79 years were killed between 1 January 2008 and 10 October 2012.
- xxvi. 4 homicides (all males) between 7 and 20 February 2008.
- xxvii. 1 homicide each (all males) on 7 and 8 February 2008.
- xxviii. 2 homicides (both males) on 1 March 2008.
- xxix. 1 homicide (both males) each on 4 and 5 April 2010.
- xxx. 2 homicides on 3 May 2010.
- xxxi. 2 homicides (male and female) on 6 November 2011.

Ages:

- xxxii. Age ranges (years) with highest number of persons killed:
 - 25 – 29: 6 males; 2 females
 - 35 – 39: 6 males; 2 females
 - 50 – 54: 6 males; 2 females
- xxxiii. Age range (years) with highest number of males and females killed:
 - 20 – 24: 7 males
 - 40 – 44 3 females
- xxxiv. 9 persons between ages 0 to 19 years were killed.(3 between ages 0 to 14 years; 6 between ages 15 to 19 years.

Employment, Relationship Status

- xxxv. 7 persons arrested and charged for homicides were unemployed.
- xxxvi. 17 persons killed, were unemployed.
- xxxvii. 1 student (14 year old male), was killed; 2008
- xxxviii. 5 students (4 males, 2008, 2010, 2011; 1 female, 2011) committed homicides.
- xxxix. 2 female teachers (Carriacou, St. Andrew's) were killed; 2010, 2011
 - xl. 1 male teacher (St. David's) was arrested and charged for homicide; 2012
 - xli. 1 parent (19 year old female, 2010) committed homicide.
 - xlii. Relationship of some persons arrested for committing homicides, with deceased: 4 students; 3 boyfriends; 3 brothers; 1 nephew; 1 sister; 1 mother 1 ex-boyfriend.

Drugs:

- xliii. The consumption of alcohol by the perpetrators and victims was involved prior to the commission of some homicides.
- xliv. None of the homicides was connected to drug trafficking.

Conclusion:

Further analysis of homicides in Grenada, for the period under review is recommended.