



Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths, 2011

The Office of Criminal Justice Services submits arrest-related deaths data for the state of Ohio annually to the Bureau of Justice Statistics to be included in the federal Arrest-Related Deaths Program. This report is a summary of 2011 Ohio arrest-related deaths.

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The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice. This project was supported by Award #2012-BJ-CX-K008, 2012 State Justice Statistics Program, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Background

An arrest-related (ARD) death is defined as a death that occurs anytime a person's freedom to leave is restricted by state or local law enforcement. Arrest-related death incidents include:

- ❖ A death that occurs before law enforcement personnel establish physical custody or before a formal arrest process is initiated.
- ❖ A death that occurs while attempting to elude law enforcement personnel during the course of apprehension (e.g., police chases involving action by law enforcement personnel such as deploying tire deflation devices, and standoffs).
- ❖ A death caused by any use of force by state or local law enforcement personnel, as well as those not directly related to actions of law enforcement, such as deaths attributed to suicide, accidental injury, and illness or natural causes.
- ❖ A death that involves law enforcement assistance in restraining and transporting individuals in need of medical or mental health care.

Deaths that occur in a jail or other long-term holding facility and deaths that occur in the custody of federal law enforcement officers are outside the scope of the ARD program and are not collected by OCJS¹.

Methodology

The data collection cycle begins January 1 and ends December 31. OCJS researchers rely on multiple sources to collect ARD data; but media reports are often used for initial identification. Official autopsy reports are then requested via fax from the appropriate county coroner or medical examiner. Once these reports are received four weeks to six months following the death, final incident reports are completed.²

In some cases, coroners and medical examiners are proactive and submit reports to OCJS of deaths they believe to qualify under the ARD program. Some of these reports have been excluded from this summary because they do not meet the parameters of an ARD.

¹ The federal Deaths in Custody Reporting Program quarterly collects inmate death records from the nation's state prison systems, state juvenile correctional authorities, and 3,000+ local jail jurisdictions.

² A copy of the federal Arrest-related Death Report form can be found at the conclusion of this document.

HIGHLIGHTS

Manner of death (Figure 1)

- ❖ In 2011 there were 43 arrest-related deaths in Ohio. Homicide by law enforcement personnel accounted for 33 (77%) of reported arrest-related deaths.
- ❖ Suicide accounted for approximately 21% of reported arrest-related deaths.

Decedent characteristics (Table 1)

- ❖ All 43 arrest-related deaths were males.
- ❖ Whites accounted for 58% of arrest-related deaths while blacks made up approximately 40%.
- ❖ Individuals aged 18 – 34 accounted for 54% of arrest-related deaths. (18 – 24 year olds represented 28% of arrest-related deaths and those aged 25 – 34 accounted for 26%.)
- ❖ Twenty-six percent of decedents had documented cases of mental illness³.

Manner of death and decedent characteristics (Tables 2 and 3)

- ❖ Decedents between the ages of 25 – 34 accounted for 33% of reported arrest-related suicides.
- ❖ Approximately 78% of reported arrest-related suicides were white decedents; 22% were black.

Ohio counties (Table 4)

- ❖ Both Franklin and Cuyahoga Counties accounted for 23% of all arrest-related deaths. Fourteen percent occurred in Hamilton County.
- ❖ At least one arrest-related death occurred in 17 Ohio counties.
- ❖ Northeast Ohio counties accounted for 35% of arrest-related incidents. Southwestern Ohio counties made up the next largest portion with 26%.

³ Coroners' reports in addition to law enforcement accounts of the incidents were used to determine if the decedent had a history of mental illness. Media interviews with the decedents' family members were used in two cases. Care should be taken not to assume the other decedents were not experiencing mental illnesses at the time of their death.

Incident circumstances (Tables 5 – 8)

- ❖ In 61% of arrest-related deaths, charges were intended to be filed against the decedent. An additional 21% of decedents had charges filed against them at their time of death.
- ❖ Among arrest-related deaths, approximately 86% of decedents allegedly engaged in violent offenses. Forty percent of decedents allegedly assaulted a citizen and/or law enforcement officer prior to the arrest-related incident.
- ❖ Charges were intended or filed against 30% of decedents with documented histories of mental illness.
- ❖ In approximately 14% of the arrest-related incidents, a conducted energy device was deployed.
- ❖ A firearm was used in approximately 95% of all arrest-related deaths.
- ❖ Approximately 56% of decedents expired at the crime/arrest scene while 44% died at a medical facility.
- ❖ Thirty-seven percent of arrest-related death incidents took place during summer months.
- ❖ The majority (63%) of all arrest-related incidents occurred between 5:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.

Law enforcement agency characteristics (Tables 9 and 10)

- ❖ Eight reported arrest-related death incidents involved law enforcement personnel from multiple agencies.
- ❖ Local police departments were involved in 93% of reported arrest-related death incidents.
- ❖ Of the 35 law enforcement agencies involved in reported arrest-related death incidents, 21 employed between 1 – 99 full-time sworn personnel. Law enforcement personnel from these agencies were involved in approximately 49% of arrest-related death incidents⁴.
- ❖ Law enforcement agencies employing more than 1,000 full-time sworn personnel were involved in approximately 51% of arrest-related death incidents.

⁴ This percentage represents how often agencies, grouped by size, were involved in the 43 arrest-related death incidents.

Figure 1 – Percent of arrest-related deaths, by manner of death, 2011

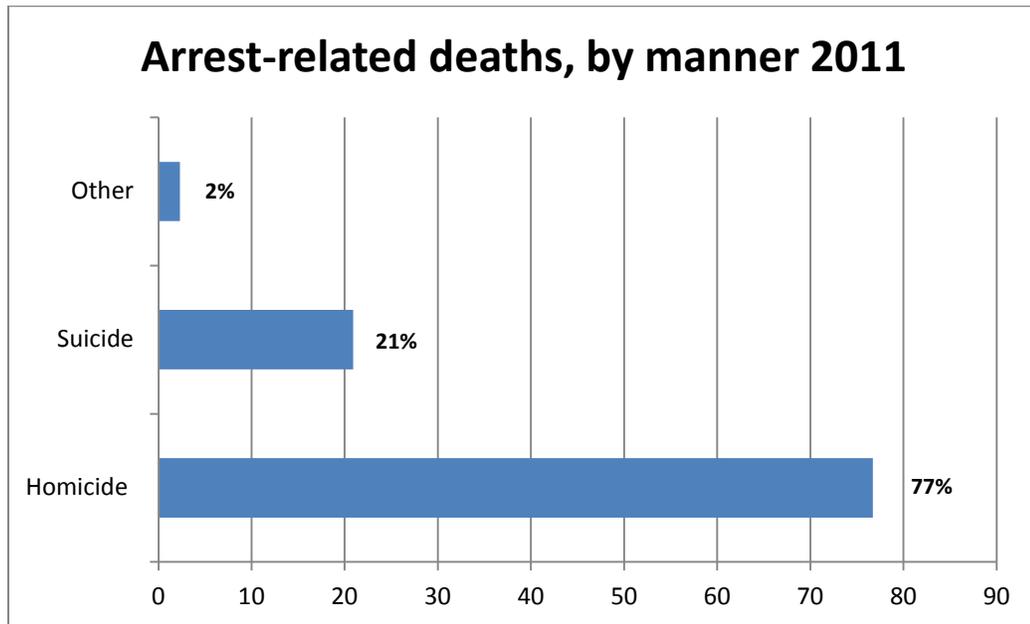


Table 1 – Reported arrest-related deaths, by demographic characteristics, 2011

Demographic characteristics	Number	Percent
Total	43	100.0%
Gender		
Male	43	100.0%
Female	-	-
Race/Ethnicity		
White	25	58.1%
Black	17	39.5%
Hispanic	1	2.3%
Age		
17 or younger	1	2.3%
18-24	12	27.9%
25-34	11	25.6%
35-44	6	14.0%
45-54	8	18.6%
55 or older	4	9.3%

Table 2 – Number of reported arrest-related deaths, by manner of death and demographic characteristics, 2011

Demographic characteristics	All Manners	Homicide	Suicide	Other
Total	43	33	9	1
Gender				
Male	43	33	9	1
Female	-	-	-	-
Race/Ethnicity				
White	25	18	7	-
Black	17	14	2	1
Hispanic	1	1	-	-
Age				
17 or younger	1	1	-	-
18-24	12	9	2	1
25-34	11	8	3	-
35-44	6	4	2	-
45-54	9	7	2	-
55 or older	4	4	-	-

Table 3 – Percent of reported arrest-related deaths, by manner of death and demographic characteristics, 2011

Demographic characteristics	All Manners	Homicide	Suicide	Other
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Gender				
Male	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Female	-	-	-	-
Race/Ethnicity				
White	58.1%	54.5%	77.8%	-
Black	39.5%	42.4%	22.2%	100.0%
Hispanic	2.3%	3.0%	-	-
Age				
17 or younger	2.3%	3.0%	-	-
18-24	27.9%	27.3%	22.2%	100.0%
25-34	25.6%	24.2%	33.3%	-
35-44	14.0%	12.1%	22.2%	-
45-54	20.9%	21.2%	22.2%	-
55 or older	9.3%	12.1%	-	-
Number of deaths	43	33	9	1

Table 4 – Reported arrest-related deaths, by county, 2011

Counties	Number	Percent
Total	43	100.0%
Northeast	15	34.8%
Cuyahoga	10	23.3%
Lorain	1	2.3%
Stark	1	2.3%
Summit	1	2.3%
Trumbull	1	2.3%
Tuscarawas	1	2.3%
Northwest	6	14.0%
Allen	1	2.3%
Auglaize	1	2.3%
Lucas	3	7.0%
Wood	1	2.3%
Central	10	23.3%
Franklin	10	23.3%
Southeast	1	2.3%
Hocking	1	2.3%
Southwest	11	25.6%
Butler	1	2.3%
Clark	2	4.7%
Hamilton	6	14.0%
Montgomery	1	2.3%
Warren	1	2.3%

Table 5 – Reported arrest-related deaths, by incident circumstances, 2011

Incident circumstances	Number	Percent
Total	43	100.0%
Violent offenses	33	76.7%
Homicide	7	16.3%
Robbery	5	11.6%
Assault	17	39.5%
Other violent	4	9.3%
Property offenses	5	11.6%
Burglary	3	7.0%
Larceny	2	4.7%
Drug offenses	1	2.3%
Public-order offenses	13	30.2%
Weapons	9	20.9%
Traffic violations, OVI	4	9.3%
No criminal charges intended	4	9.3%
Mental health call	3	7.0%
Unspecified	1	2.3%

Note: In many arrest-related death incidents, decedents were allegedly involved in more than one particular offense. Therefore details do not sum to total. "Other violent offenses" include incidents of domestic violence, standoffs, and kidnappings.

Table 6 – Devices used by law enforcement personnel during reported arrest-related death incidents, 2011

Devices	Number	Percent
Total	43	100.0%
Firearm	41	95.3%
Unspecified firearm	29	67.4%
Handgun	8	18.6%
Shotgun	4	9.3%
Conducted energy device	6	14.0%
Handcuffs	3	7.0%
Smoke grenade/tear gas	2	4.7%
Tire deflation device	3	7.0%
Knee Knocker (wooden pellets)	1	2.3%
No device used	3	7.0%

Note: Numbers represent the amount each device was used during all 43 reported arrest-related death incidents. In many incidents, multiple devices were used by law enforcement personnel. Therefore, details will not sum to total.

Table 7 – Arrest-related death incidents by month and quarter, 2011

Time	Number	Percent
Total	43	100.0%
1st Quarter	7	16.3%
January	5	11.6%
February	2	4.7%
March	-	-
2nd Quarter	11	25.6%
April	6	14.0%
May	4	9.3%
June	1	2.3%
3rd Quarter	16	37.2%
July	5	11.6%
August	8	18.6%
September	3	7.0%
4th Quarter	9	20.9%
October	4	9.3%
November	2	4.7%
December	3	7.0%

Table 8 – Time of arrest-related death incidents, 2011

Time	Number	Percent
Total	43	100.0%
7:00 a.m. – 11:59 a.m.	3	7.0%
Noon – 4:59 p.m.	7	16.3%
5:00 p.m. – 8:59 p.m.	14	32.6%
9:00 p.m. – 1:59 a.m.	13	30.2%
2:00 a.m. – 6:59 a.m.	6	14.0%

Note: The exact time of arrest-related death incidents are based on coroners' reports, law enforcement agency accounts, and media reports. Oftentimes incident times were very close to decedents' time of death; however this was not true for all cases. Percentages do not sum to total due to rounding.

Table 9 – Reported arrest-related deaths by law enforcement agency type, 2011

Agency type	Number	Percent
Total	43	100.0%
Local police department	40	93.0%
Sheriff's office	10	23.3%
Highway patrol	4	9.3%
Special jurisdiction police	1	2.3%
Other	1	2.3%

Note: Numbers represent the amount each agency type was involved in all 43 reported arrest-related death incidents. In eight incidents, law enforcement personnel from multiple agency types were involved. Therefore, details will not sum to total.

Table 10 – Law enforcement agency size and percent involved in reported arrest-related deaths, 2011

Number of full-time sworn agency personnel	Number	Percent
Total	35	100.0%
1-9	4	9.3%
10-24	2	4.7%
25-49	7	16.3%
50-99	8	18.6%
100-249	5	11.6%
250-499	1	2.3%
500-999	3	14.0%
1000 or more	4	51.2%
Unknown	1	2.3%

Note: The numbers listed are the unduplicated count of law enforcement agencies involved in reported arrest-related incidents. Details do not sum to total due to multiple agencies participating in some incidents.

CJ-11A ADDENDUM

OMB No. 1121-0249 Approval Expires 12/31/2012

RETURN TO: State reporting coordinator
 (See form CJ-11 for a national listing, or call the Bureau of Justice Statistics at 202.307.0765.)

Form CJ-11A
ARREST-RELATED DEATH REPORT
2011



State _____

Reporting period (Mark only one)

- Quarter 1 (January 1–March 31) Quarter 2 (April 1–June 30) Quarter 3 (July 1–September 30) Quarter 4 (October 1–December 31)

1. What was the name of the deceased?

Last _____ First _____ Middle initial _____

2. What was the time and date of death?

_____ : _____ AM PM Month _____ Day _____, 2011

3. Where did the event causing the death occur?

Street address _____

City, State, Zip _____

4. What law enforcement agency was involved?

Name _____

ORI# _____

5. What was the deceased's date of birth?

Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ or Age _____

6. What was the deceased's sex?

- 01 Male
 02 Female

7. What was the deceased's race/ethnic origin?

- 01 White (not of Hispanic origin)
 02 Black, or African American (not of Hispanic origin)
 03 Hispanic or Latino
 04 American Indian/Alaska Native (not of Hispanic origin)
 05 Asian (not of Hispanic origin)
 06 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (not of Hispanic origin)
 07 Two or more races (not of Hispanic origin)
 08 Additional categories in your information system
 Specify _____

98 Don't know

8. What was the manner of death?

- 01 Homicide by law enforcement officer(s)
 02 Other homicide
 03 Suicide
 04 Accidental injury to self
 05 Accidental injury caused by others
 06 Accidental alcohol/drug intoxication

Specify _____

07 Illness—Specify _____

08 Other—Specify _____

9. What was the cause of death?

10. Was the cause of death listed above determined from information in a death certificate?

- 01 Yes
 02 No—other—Specify _____

11. Did the deceased commit or allegedly commit any criminal offenses in the events leading up to the death?

- 01 Yes
 02 No—medical/mental health assistance call
 03 No—other—Specify _____

12. What were the most serious reported offenses by the deceased?

01 _____

02 _____

03 _____

13. Did the deceased die from a medical condition, injuries sustained during the arrest process, or alcohol/drug intoxication?—Mark (x) all that apply

- 01 Medical condition (e.g., heart attack)
 02 Injuries
 03 Alcohol/drug intoxication
 98 Don't know

Burden Statement

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The burden of this collection is estimated to average 60 minutes per response, including reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering necessary data, and completing and reviewing this form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this survey, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 810 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20531.

Name of deceased _____

14. If the deceased died from arrest-related injuries, how were these injuries sustained?—Mark (x) all that apply

- 01 Inflicted by law enforcement officers at crime/arrest scene
- 02 Inflicted by others at crime/arrest scene
- 03 Inflicted by law enforcement officers during transit/booking
- 04 Self-inflicted—Accidental
- 05 Self-inflicted—Suicide
- 98 Don't know
- 99 Not applicable

15. Were any of the following used by law enforcement officers during the arrest process?

- 01 Yes—Mark (x) all that apply
 - 01 Handcuffs
 - 02 Leg shackles
 - 03 Pepper spray, mace
 - 04 Conducted energy device (e.g., taser, stun-gun)
 - 05 Firearm discharge
 - 06 Other device (e.g., tire deflation device)

Specify _____

- 02 No
- 98 Don't know

16. At any time during the arrest process, did the deceased—Mark (x) all that apply

- 01 Appear intoxicated (either alcohol or drugs)?
- 02 Exhibit any mental health problems?
- 03 Verbally threaten the officer(s) involved?
- 04 Resist being handcuffed or arrested?
- 05 Attempt to escape/flee from custody?
- 06 Attempt to grab, hit or fight with the officer(s) involved?
- 97 None of the above
- 98 Don't know

17. During the arrest process, did the deceased do any of the following—Mark (x) all that apply

- 01 Carry or possess a weapon?—Specify weapons _____
- 02 Use a weapon to threaten the officer(s)?—Specify _____
- 03 Use a weapon to threaten other persons?—Specify _____
- 04 Use a weapon to assault the officer(s)?—Specify _____
- 05 Use a weapon to assault other persons?—Specify _____
- 97 None of the above

18. If a weapon caused the death, what types of weapons were used?—Mark (x) all that apply

- 01 Handgun
- 02 Rifle/shotgun
- 03 Firearm, unspecified
- 04 Nightstick or baton
- 05 Conducted energy device
- 06 Other weapon

Specify _____

- 98 Don't know
- 99 Not applicable

19. Where did the death occur?

- 01 At booking center/police lockup—Complete items 20–23
- 02 At crime/arrest scene
- 03 At medical facility following clinical intervention
- 04 Dead on arrival at medical facility
- 05 En route to booking center/police lockup
- 06 Elsewhere

Specify location _____

Form complete, stop here

Complete the rest of this form only if the death occurred at a booking center.

20. What was the time and date of the deceased's entry into the law enforcement facility where the death occurred?

____:____ AM PM Month _____ Day _____, 2011

21. At the time of entry into the law enforcement facility, did the deceased—Mark (x) all that apply

- 01 Appear intoxicated (either alcohol or drugs)?
- 02 Exhibit any mental health problems?
- 03 Exhibit any medical problems?
- 97 None of the above
- 98 Don't know

22. If death was an accident or homicide, who caused the death?

- 01 Deceased
- 02 Other detainees
- 03 Law enforcement/correctional staff
- 04 Other persons

Specify _____

- 98 Don't know
- 99 Not applicable; cause of death was suicide, intoxication, or illness

23. If death was an accident, homicide or suicide, what was the means of death?—Mark (x) all that apply

- 01 Firearm
- 02 Blunt instrument
- 03 Knife, cutting instrument
- 04 Hanging, strangulation
- 05 Drug overdose
- 06 Other

Specify _____

- 99 Not applicable; cause of death was intoxication or illness

Notes