



Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths (2012)

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The Office of Criminal Justice Services annually submits arrest-related deaths data for the state of Ohio to the Bureau of Justice Statistics to be included in the federal Arrest-Related Deaths Program. This report is a summary of 2012 Ohio arrest-related deaths.



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Background

An arrest-related death (ARD) 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).

Highlights



In 2012 there were 40 arrest-related deaths in Ohio. Homicide by law enforcement personnel accounted for 70% of reported incidents.

Among arrest-related deaths, approximately 83% of decedents were allegedly engaged in violent offenses. Forty percent of decedents assaulted a citizen and/or law enforcement officer prior to the incident.

Domestic disputes comprised approximately 48% of incidents.

Franklin County accounted for the most arrest-related death incidents (23%) followed by Cuyahoga County (18%).

Thirty-five percent of arrest-related death incidents occurred between the hours of 9PM – 1:59AM.



- ❖ 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; however 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 completed².

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.

Summary

Decedent characteristics (Table 1)

- ❖ Four of the arrest-related deaths were females.
- ❖ Whites accounted for 50% of incidents while Blacks made up approximately 43%.
- ❖ Individuals aged 18 – 34 accounted for 45% of arrest-related deaths. Decedents aged 35 – 54 accounted for 50%.
- ❖ Twenty-three percent of decedents had documented cases of mental illness³.

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.

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. Care should be taken not to assume the other decedents were not experiencing mental illnesses at the time of their death.



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

- ❖ Decedents between the ages of 18 – 24 accounted for approximately 29% of reported arrest-related homicides.
- ❖ Fifty percent of reported arrest-related suicides were White decedents; 37.5% were Black.
- ❖ Female decedents represented 25% of all suicides.

Ohio Counties (Table 4)

- ❖ At least one arrest-related death occurred in 18 Ohio counties.
- ❖ Northeast Ohio counties accounted for 35% of arrest-related death incidents. Southwestern and Central Ohio counties made up the next largest portion with 28% each.

Incident circumstances (Tables 5 – 8)

- ❖ In 80% of incidents charges were intended to be filed against the decedent. An additional 13% of decedents had charges filed against them at their time of death.
- ❖ Firearms were used in 95% of arrest-related death incidents⁴.
- ❖ Sixty percent of decedents expired at the scene while 35% died at a medical facility.
- ❖ Approximately 38% of arrest-related incidents took place during the summer months with 23% occurring in July.
- ❖ The majority of arrest-related incidents occurred between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 1:59 a.m.

Law enforcement agency characteristics (Tables 9 and 10)

- ❖ 4 reported arrest-related incidents involved law enforcement personnel from multiple agencies.
- ❖ Local police departments were involved in approximately 93% of reported incidents.
- ❖ Of the 29 law enforcement agencies involved in reported incidents, 19 employed between 1-99 full-time sworn personnel. Law enforcement personnel from these agencies were involved in approximately 48% of arrest-related incidents⁵.
- ❖ Law enforcement agencies employing more than 1,000 full-time sworn personnel were involved in approximately 48% of arrest-related incidents.

⁴ This percentage includes both the decedents' and law enforcement use of firearms. (Not included in the table.)

⁵ This percentage represents how often agencies, grouped by size, were involved in the 40 arrest-related death incidents.

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Table 1 – Reported arrest-related deaths, by demographic characteristics, 2012

Demographic characteristics	Number	Percent
Total	40	100.0%
Gender		
Male	36	90.0%
Female	4	10.0%
Race/Ethnicity		
White	20	50.0%
Black	17	42.5%
Hispanic	1	2.5%
Two or more races	1	2.5%
Unknown	1	2.5%
Age		
18-24	11	27.5%
25-34	7	17.5%
35-44	10	25.0%
45-54	10	25.0%
55 or older	2	5.0%

Table 2 – Number of reported arrest-related deaths, by manner of death and demographic characteristics, 2012

Demographic characteristics	All Manners	Homicide	Suicide	Accidental alcohol/drug intoxication	Accidental injury to self	Other
Total	40	28	8	1	2	1
Gender						
Male	36	26	6	1	2	1
Female	4	2	2	-	-	-
Race/Ethnicity						
White	20	13	4	1	2	-
Black	17	13	3	-	-	1
Hispanic	1	1	-	-	-	-
Two or more races	1	1	-	-	-	-
Unknown	1	-	1	-	-	-
Age						
18-24	11	8	2	-	1	-
25-34	7	5	1	1	-	-
35-44	10	7	2	-	-	1
45-54	10	7	2	-	1	-
55 or older	2	1	1	-	-	-

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Table 3 – Percent of reported arrest-related deaths, by manner of death and demographic characteristics, 2012

Demographic characteristics	All Manners	Homicide	Suicide	Accidental alcohol/drug intoxication	Accidental injury to self	Other
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Gender						
Male	90.0%	92.9%	75.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Female	10.0%	7.1%	25.0%	-	-	-
Race/Ethnicity						
White	50.0%	46.4%	50.0%	100.0%	100.0%	-
Black	42.5%	46.4%	37.5%	-	-	100.0%
Hispanic	2.5%	3.6%	-	-	-	-
Two or more races	2.5%	3.6%	-	-	-	-
Unknown	2.5%	-	12.5%	-	-	-
Age						
18-24	27.5%	28.6%	25.0%	-	50.0%	-
25-34	17.5%	17.9%	12.5%	100.0%	-	-
35-44	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	-	-	100.0%
45-54	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	-	50.0%	-
55 or older	5.0%	3.6%	12.5%	-	-	-
Number of deaths	40	28	8	1	2	1

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Table 4 – Reported arrest-related deaths, by county, 2012

Counties	Number	Percent
Total	40	100.0%
Northeast	14	35.0%
Cuyahoga	7	17.5%
Geauga	1	2.5%
Jefferson	1	2.5%
Lorain	1	2.5%
Medina	1	2.5%
Summit	1	2.5%
Trumbull	2	5.0%
Northwest	3	7.5%
Lucas	2	5.0%
Wood	1	2.5%
Central	11	27.5%
Franklin	9	22.5%
Marion	1	2.5%
Morrow	1	2.5%
Southeast	1	2.5%
Jackson	1	2.5%
Southwest	11	27.5%
Clark	1	2.5%
Clermont	1	2.5%
Clinton	1	2.5%
Hamilton	6	15.0%
Montgomery	2	5.0%

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Table 5 – Reported arrest-related deaths, by incident circumstances, 2012

Incident circumstances	Number	Percent
Total	40	100.0%
Violent offenses	24	60.0%
Homicide	7	17.5%
Robbery	1	2.5%
Assault	9	22.5%
Other violent	7	17.5%
Property offenses	8	20.0%
Burglary	5	12.5%
Larceny	3	7.5%
Drug offenses	1	2.5%
Public-order offenses	14	35.0%
Weapons	7	17.5%
Traffic violations, OVI	7	17.5%
No criminal charges intended	1	2.5%
Mental health call	1	2.5%

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, 2012

Devices	Number	Percent
Total	40	100.0%
Firearm	29	72.5%
Unspecified firearm	22	55.0%
Handgun	4	10.0%
Conducted energy device	4	10.0%
Handcuffs	2	5.0%
Tire deflation device	3	7.5%
No device used	9	22.5%

Note: Numbers represent the amount each device was used during all 40 reported arrest-related death incidents. In many incidents, multiple devices were used by law enforcement personnel. Therefore, details will not sum to total.

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Table 7 – Arrest-related death incidents by month and quarter, 2012

Time	Number	Percent
Total	40	100.0%
1st Quarter	5	12.5%
January	1	2.5%
February	-	-
March	4	10.0%
2nd Quarter	8	20.0%
April	2	5.0%
May	2	5.0%
June	4	10.0%
3rd Quarter	15	37.5%
July	9	22.5%
August	5	12.5%
September	1	2.5%
4th Quarter	12	30.0%
October	6	15.0%
November	4	10.0%
December	2	5.0%

Table 8 – Time of arrest-related death incidents, 2012

Time	Number	Percent
Total	40	100.0%
7:00 a.m. – 11:59 a.m.	2	5.0%
Noon – 4:59 p.m.	5	12.5%
5:00 p.m. – 8:59 p.m.	8	20.0%
9:00 p.m. – 1:59 a.m.	14	35.0%
2:00 a.m. – 6:59 a.m.	7	17.5%
Unknown	4	10.0%

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, 2012

Agency type	Number	Percent
Total	40	100.0%
Local police department	37	92.5%
Sheriff's office	6	15.0%
Highway patrol	1	2.5%

Note: Numbers represent the amount each agency type was involved in all 40 reported arrest-related death incidents. In four incidents, law enforcement personnel from multiple agency types were involved. Therefore, details will not sum to total.

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Table 10 – Law enforcement agency size and percent involved in reported arrest-related deaths, 2012

Number of full-time sworn agency personnel	Number	Percent
Total	29	100.0%
1-9	1	2.5%
10-24	7	17.5%
25-49	5	12.5%
50-99	6	15.0%
100-249	1	2.5%
250-499	2	5.0%
500-999	2	5.0%
1000 or more	4	47.5%
Unknown	1	2.5%

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
2012



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 _____, 2012

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 _____, 2012**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