



OHIO ARREST-RELATED DEATHS – 2013

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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 2013 Ohio arrest-related deaths.



The opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not reflect the views of the Department of Justice. This project was supported by Award #2013-BJ-CX-K005, 2012 State Justice Statistics Program, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.



Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2013

Background

An arrest-related death (ARD) is defined as any death (e.g., gunshot wound, cardiac arrest, or drowning) that occurs during an interaction with state or local law enforcement personnel, including those that occur -

- Shortly after freedom to leave is restricted, all deaths that occur shortly after a person's freedom to leave is restricted by state or local law enforcement personnel.
- During an attempt to arrest or in the process of arrest, all deaths that occur during the interaction with law enforcement personnel.
- Without any direct action by law enforcement. This would include deaths attributed to suicide, intoxication, accidental injury, medical emergencies or health complications.
- While in custody (before transfer to jail), all deaths that occur after law enforcement have established physical custody of an arrestee. These in-custody deaths can occur at the scene of the incident, during transport or while the suspect is being held at a law enforcement facility.

It should be noted that not all deaths that occur during an interaction with state or local law enforcement personnel are reported to the ARD program, and they include:

- Deaths of bystanders, hostages and law enforcement personnel.
- Deaths by federal law enforcement. However, fatal incidents that

Highlights

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In 2013, the Office of Criminal Justice Services collected reports for 39 confirmed arrest-related deaths in Ohio. Homicide by law enforcement personnel accounted for 56% of those reported incidents.

Of the 39 arrest-related deaths, there were a total of 36 men and 3 women. Fifty-nine percent were white males and blacks males accounted for 33 percent of the deaths.

Fifty-six percent of arrest-related incidents were initiated based on a civilian's request for response to criminal or suspicious activity.

Forty-three percent of decedents attempted to injure law enforcement personnel. Fourteen percent non-fatally injured law enforcement personnel.

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include interactions between federal law enforcement, along with state or local law enforcement are reportable to the ARD program¹.

- Deaths of wanted criminal suspects before police contact. If a death occurred before law enforcement interaction of a wanted criminal suspect, it is not within the scope of the ARD program.
- Deaths by vehicular pursuits **without** any direct police action. If law enforcement did not take direct action against the subject or their vehicle, these deaths are excluded from the ARD program. These types of incidents require that law enforcement take some kind of direct action against the subject. Direct action would include shooting at the subject's vehicle, ramming it, or otherwise forcing the vehicle to stop or leave the road (e.g., roadblocks or spike strips). When law enforcement take direct action against the subject, only then is it reportable to the ARD program.
- Deaths that occur in a jail or other long-term holding facility are also outside of the scope of the ARD program and are not collected by the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS)².

For further details and definitions on the current Arrest-Related Deaths Program, please visit <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ardpdqp.pdf>

Methodology

The data collection cycle begins January 1st and ends December 31st. 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 completed³. When necessary, OCJS researchers may also submit a request for an investigative summary from the appropriate law enforcement agency for additional details surrounding the arrest-related death incident.

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 Current Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-242) includes federal law enforcement within scope.

² 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.

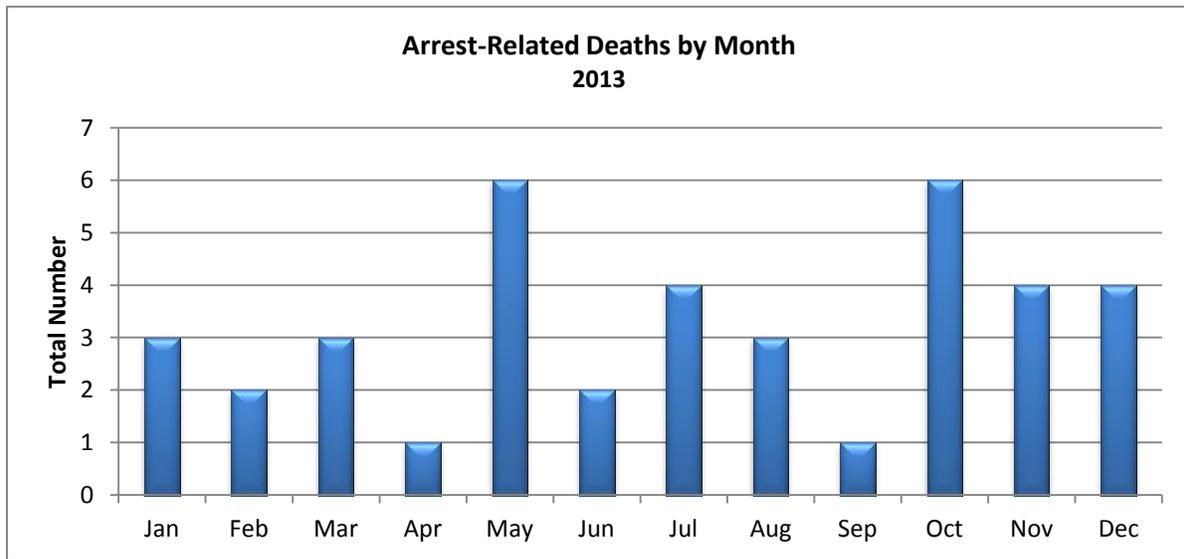
³ A copy of the federal Arrest-Related Death Report form can be found at the conclusion of this document.



Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2013

Characteristics of Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths

In 2013, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) collected reports for 39 arrest-related deaths in Ohio. There were no significant patterns found when looking at the number of incidents based on the month of occurrence. The greatest number of incidents was reported in May and October, accounting for 31 percent of incidents.



Twenty-two counties were reported to have at least one arrest-related death, with Franklin County accounting for 23 percent of the incidents. Regionally, Central Ohio accounted for 36 percent of arrest-related death incidents.

Region	Total	Percent
Central	14	36%
Southeast	2	5%
Southwest	11	28%
Northeast	10	26%
Northwest	2	5%

Incident Circumstances

Of the 39 arrest-related deaths captured, 56 percent were initiated based on a civilian’s request for response to criminal or suspicious activity. Seventy-nine percent of the incidents reported the decedent displaying a weapon.

Reason for initial contact	Total	Percent
Civilian request for medical, mental, health or welfare assistance	3	8%
Civilian request for response to criminal or suspicious activity	22	56%
Routine patrol/on-view (other than traffic stop)	2	5%
Traffic/vehicle stop	9	23%
Warrant service	2	5%
Other	1	3%

Twenty-eight incidents reported that the decedent attempted to injure or injured others. Of those incidents, the following were reported⁴:

- 43 percent attempted to injure law enforcement personnel
- 21 percent non-fatally injured civilian(s)
- 18 percent attempted to injure civilian(s)
- 18 percent fatally injured civilian(s)
- 14 percent non-fatally injured law enforcement personnel

During the arrest-related death incidents, 77 percent of decedents were reported to have resisted being handcuffed or arrested and 54 percent were reported to have made an attempt to escape or flee from custody. There were 35 incidents in which the decedent was reported to have engaged in any of the following behaviors.

At any time during the incident, did the decedent ...	Total	Percent ⁵
Make suicidal statements	5	14%
Barricade self or initiate standoff	10	29%
Verbally threaten other(s)	9	26%
Resist being handcuffed or arrested	27	77%
Attempt to escape/flee from custody	19	54%
Attempt to grab, hit, or kick officer(s)	6	17%
Attempt to gain possession of officer’s weapon	0	0%
Gain possession of officer’s weapon	0	0%

⁴ Percent total will exceed 100 percent. In some cases, the decedent was reported to have attempted to injure or injured in more than one category.

⁵ Percent total will exceed 100 percent. In some cases, the decedent was reported to have committed more than one act during the incident.

Of the 39 arrest-related death incidents, there were 18 incidents in which law enforcement personnel reported any of the following types of engagement with the decedent during the incident.

At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel ...	Total	Percent ⁶
Fight or struggle with decedent	5	28%
Physically restrain decedent (e.g. control hold, body compression)	0	0%
Restrain decedent with equipment (e.g. handcuffs, leg shackles)	3	17%
Place decedent in prone position	1	6%
Engage in motor vehicle pursuit	11	61%
Engage in foot pursuit	4	22%
Arrest the decedent	2	11%

There were 29 incidents in which law enforcement reported the use of any of the following types of weapons during an arrest-related incident.

At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel use ...	Total	Percent ⁷
Firearm discharge	22	76%
Conducted energy devices (Taser) contact	4	14%
Pepper/OC spray, mace dispersion	1	3%
Baton/blunt instrument impact	0	0%
Other *	7	24%

*represents reports of law enforcement personnel deploying stop sticks (5) and tear gas (2) during incident

Fifty-six percent of the deaths were ruled a homicide by law enforcement and 28 percent were the result of a suicide. The remaining 13 percent were ruled an accident and three percent ruled a natural death. A firearm caused the death of 85 percent of the decedents⁸.

It was determined through toxicology reports that 62 percent of the decedents tested positive for the presence of drugs and/or alcohol. Forty-nine percent of decedents tested positive for alcohol and 39 percent of decedents tested positive for at least one drug at the time of their death.

Location

During the arrest-related incidents, 39 percent occurred at a residence and 36 percent occurred on a roadway/highway/street/sidewalk. Seventy-two percent of the decedents were pronounced dead at the crime or arrest scene while 26 percent occurred at a medical facility following clinical intervention.

⁶ Percent total will exceed 100 percent. In some cases, law enforcement personnel were reported to have acted in more than one category during the incident.

⁷ Percent total will exceed 100 percent. In some cases, law enforcement personnel were reported to have used more than one type of weapon during the incident.

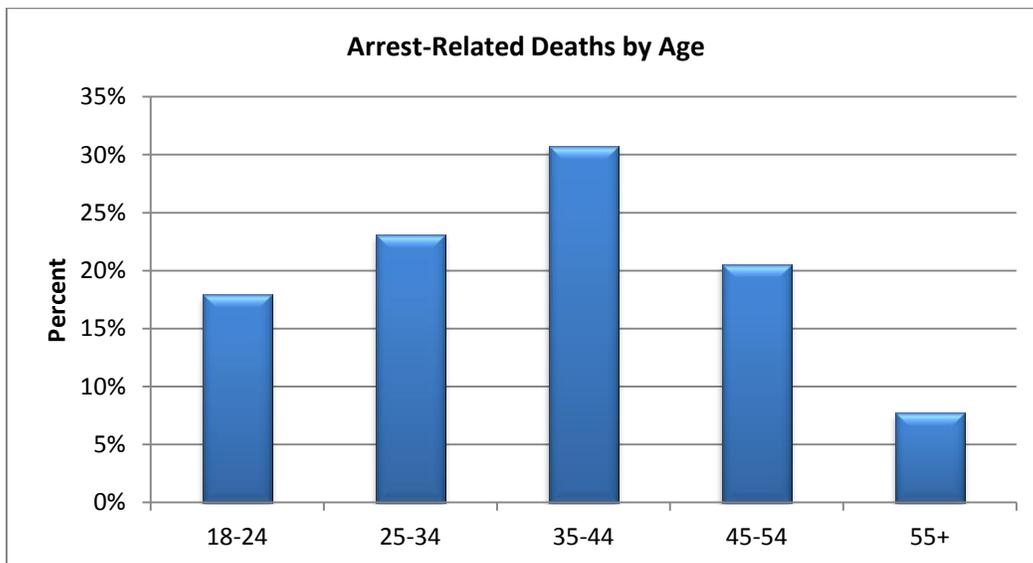
⁸ This percentage includes both the decedents' and law enforcement use of firearms.

Decedent Characteristics

Of the decedents identified in an arrest-related death, there were a total of 36 males and three females. Whites accounted for 64 percent of the arrest-related deaths, while Blacks accounted for 36 percent. White males also made up 59 percent of the deaths, with Black males accounting for 33 percent.

	Female Total	Percent	Male Total	Percent
Black	1	3%	13	33%
White	2	5%	23	59%

The average age of a decedent was 37.7 years and 31 percent of decedents were between the ages of 35 and 44 years. Of the Black decedents, 36 percent fell between the ages of 18 and 24 years, while 40 percent of White decedents fell between the ages of 35 and 44 years.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS
 AND ACTING AS COLLECTION AGENT:
 RTI INTERNATIONAL

ARREST-RELATED DEATH INCIDENT REPORT, 2013



1. What was the decedent's name?

 Last First M.I.

2. What was the time and date of death?
 ____ : ____ AM PM Month: ____ Day: ____ , 2013

3. What law enforcement agency was involved with the death?
 Agency name: _____
 Check if multiple law enforcement agencies responded
 Agency ORI: _____
 Agency ORI unknown

4. Where did the event causing the death occur?
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____

5. What location category best describes where the event causing the death occurred? (Mark only one)
 Residence/home
 Law enforcement facility
 Business, specify type: _____
 Roadway/highway/street/sidewalk
 Parking lot/garage
 Field/woods/lake/waterway/beach
 Other, specify: _____
 Unknown

6. What was the decedent's sex?
 Male
 Female

7. What was the decedent's date of birth (DOB)?
 ____/____/____ or age at death if DOB unknown ____

8. What was the decedent's ethnic origin? (Mark only one)
 Hispanic or Latino
 Not Hispanic or Latino
 Unknown

9. What was the decedent's race? (Mark only one)
 American Indian or Alaska Native
 Asian
 Black or African American
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 White
 Two or more races
 Unknown

10. What was the reason for the initial contact between the decedent and law enforcement personnel? (Mark only one)
 Civilian request for response to criminal or suspicious activity, specify reason for request: _____
 Civilian request for medical, mental health, or welfare assistance, specify reason for request: _____
 Routine patrol/on-view (other than traffic stop), specify observed behavior: _____
 Traffic/vehicle stop, specify reason for stop: _____
 Warrant service, specify charge: _____
 Other reason for contact, specify reason: _____
 Unknown

11. At any time during the incident, did the decedent

	Yes	No	Unknown
Make suicidal statements.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Barricade self or initiate standoff.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Verbally threaten other(s).....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Resist being handcuffed or arrested.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attempt to escape/flee from custody.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attempt to grab, hit, or kick officer(s).....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attempt to gain possession of officer's weapon.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gain possession of officer's weapon.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. At any time during the incident, did the decedent display or use a weapon?
 Yes, mark all that apply:
 Displayed firearm without discharge
 Discharged firearm
 Displayed other weapon, specify weapon displayed: _____
 Used other weapon, specify weapon used: _____
 Used vehicle as a weapon
 No
 Unknown

13. At any time during the incident, did the decedent attempt to injure or injure others?
 Yes, mark all that apply:
 Fatally injured law enforcement personnel
 Non-fatally injured law enforcement personnel
 Attempted to injure law enforcement personnel
 Fatally injured civilian(s)
 Non-fatally injured civilian(s)
 Attempted to injure civilian(s)
 No
 Unknown

Name of decedent _____

14. At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel

	Yes	No	Unknown
Fight or struggle with decedent.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physically restrain decedent (e.g., control hold, body compression).....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restrain decedent with equipment (e.g., handcuffs, leg shackles).....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Place decedent in prone position.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engage in motor vehicle pursuit.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engage in foot pursuit.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arrest the decedent.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, specify: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel use any of the following weapons?

	Yes	No	Unknown
Firearm discharge.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conducted energy device (Taser) contact.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pepper/OC spray, mace dispersion.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Baton/blunt instrument impact.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, specify: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. Did the decedent sustain a fatal injury during the incident?

Yes, mark who caused the fatal injury (Mark only one)

- Law enforcement personnel
- Decedent
- Other civilian(s)
- Unknown person(s) caused the fatal injury

No

Unknown whether decedent sustained a fatal injury

17. If a weapon caused the death, what type of weapon caused the death? (Mark only one)

- Handgun
- Rifle/shotgun
- Firearm, unspecified
- Conducted energy device (e.g., Taser)
- Knife/edged instrument
- Baton/blunt instrument
- Other weapon, specify: _____
- Vehicle-involved death (i.e., vehicle accident)
- Not applicable, weapon or vehicle did not cause death
- Unknown

18. Where did the death occur? (Mark only one)

- Law enforcement facility/booking center
- Scene of incident
- Dead on arrival at medical facility
- Medical facility following clinical intervention
- Other, specify: _____
- Unknown

19. What was the manner of death? (Mark only one)

- Natural
- Homicide
- Accident
- Suicide
- Could not be determined
- Unknown

20. What was the cause of death?

Immediate cause:

Secondary causes (if applicable):

Unknown (skip Item 21 if cause of death is unknown)

21. How was information provided for cause of death (Item 20) determined? (Mark all that apply)

- Death certificate
- Autopsy report or medical evaluation
- Other source, specify: _____

22. Did the autopsy report or medical evaluation indicate the presence of alcohol or of drugs other than alcohol?

Yes, mark all that apply:

- Alcohol
- Drug(s) other than alcohol, specify: _____

No

Unknown, did not obtain autopsy report or medical evaluation

Notes:

