



# OHIO ARREST-RELATED DEATHS – 2014

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## Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2014

### 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 occurs:

- Shortly after freedom to leave is restricted, by state or local law enforcement personnel.
- During an attempt to arrest or in the process of arrest.
- Without any direct action by law enforcement. This would include deaths attributed to suicide, intoxication, accidental injury, medical emergencies or health complications.
- 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 include interactions between federal law enforcement, along with

### Highlights

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*In 2014, the Office of Criminal Justice Services collected reports for 44 confirmed arrest-related deaths in Ohio. Homicide by law enforcement personnel accounted for 64% of those reported incidents.*

*Of the 44 arrest-related deaths, there were a total of 42 men and 2 women. Fifty-seven percent were White males and Blacks males accounted for 39 percent of the deaths.*

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

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state or local law enforcement are reportable to the ARD program<sup>1</sup>.

- Deaths of wanted criminal suspects before police contact. If a death of a wanted criminal suspect occurred before law enforcement interaction, 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. ARD 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)<sup>2</sup>.

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 1<sup>st</sup> and ends December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 completed<sup>3</sup>. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Current Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-242) includes federal law enforcement within scope.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

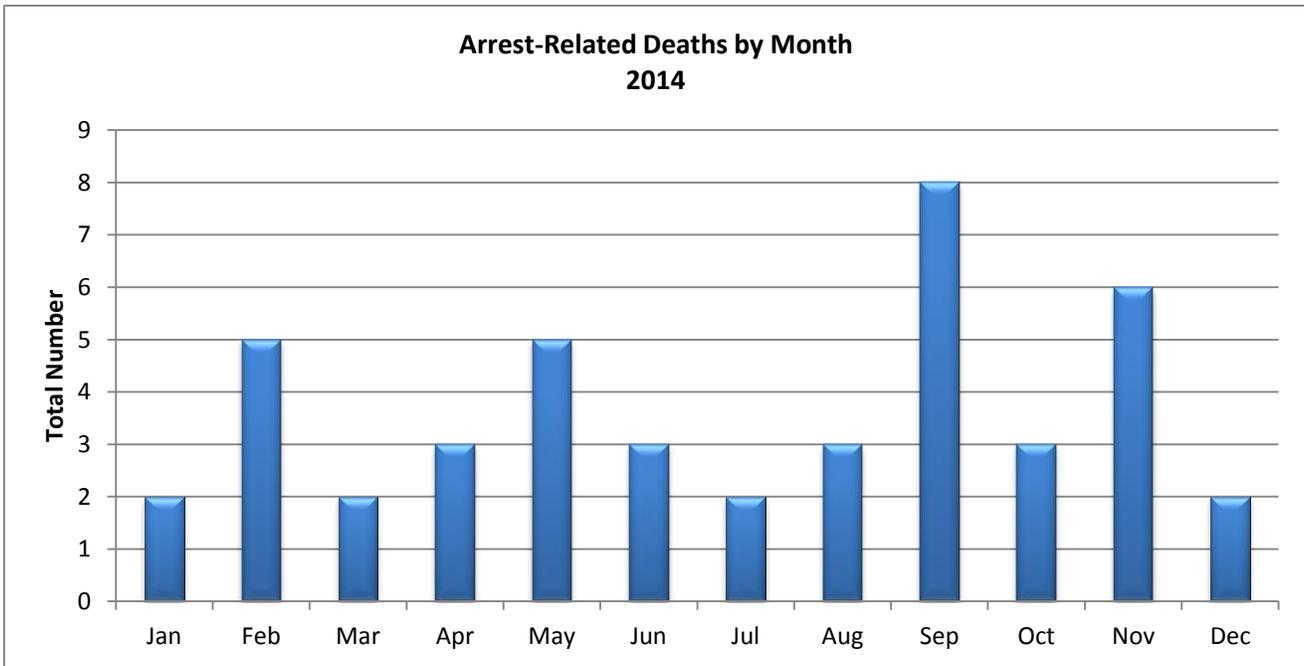
<sup>3</sup> A copy of the federal Arrest-Related Death Report form can be found at the conclusion of this document.



## Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2014

### Characteristics of Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths

In 2014, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) collected reports for 44 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 September, accounting for 18 percent of the arrest-related deaths.



Eighteen counties were reported to have at least one arrest-related death, with Cuyahoga County accounting for 23 percent of the incidents. Regionally, Northeast Ohio accounted for 39 percent of arrest-related death incidents.

Region	Total	Percent
Central	11	25%
Southeast	1	2%
Southwest	15	34%
Northeast	17	39%
Northwest	0	0%

## Incident Circumstances

Of the 44 arrest-related deaths captured, 50 percent were initiated based on a civilian's request for response to criminal or suspicious activity. When circumstances were known, seventy-one 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	7%
Civilian request for response to criminal or suspicious activity	22	50%
Routine patrol/on-view (other than traffic stop)	1	2%
Traffic/vehicle stop	6	14%
Warrant service	5	11%
Other	7	16%

When circumstances were known, 17 incidents involved the decedent attempting to injure or injuring others. Of those incidents, the following were reported<sup>4</sup>:

- Nine or 41% attempted to injure law enforcement personnel
- Three or 14% non-fatally injured law enforcement personnel
- Three or 14% non-fatally injured civilian(s)
- Five or 23% attempted to injure civilian(s)
- Two or 9% fatally injured civilian(s)

Seventy-one percent (29) of the decedents displayed a weapon during an arrest-related incident. Of the 17 incidents that involved a decedent attempting to injure or injuring others, 88 percent (15) of the decedents displayed a weapon.

During the arrest-related death incidents, 68 percent of decedents were reported to have resisted being handcuffed or arrested and 53 percent were reported to have made an attempt to escape or flee from custody. There were 34 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 <sup>5</sup>
Make suicidal statements	6	18%
Barricade self or initiate standoff	14	41%
Verbally threaten other(s)	9	26%
Resist being handcuffed or arrested	23	68%
Attempt to escape/flee from custody	18	53%
Attempt to grab, hit, or kick officer(s)	5	15%

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

Attempt to gain possession of officer's weapon	0	0%
Gain possession of officer's weapon	0	0%

Of the 44 arrest-related death incidents, there were 16 incidents in which law enforcement personnel reported any of the following types of engagement with the decedent.

At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel ...	Total	Percent <sup>6</sup>
Fight or struggle with decedent	4	16%
Physically restrain decedent (e.g. control hold, body compression)	1	4%
Restrain decedent with equipment (e.g. handcuffs, leg shackles)	3	12%
Place decedent in prone position	1	4%
Engage in motor vehicle pursuit	3	12%
Engage in foot pursuit	11	44%
Arrest the decedent	2	8%

There were 31 incidents in which law enforcement reported the use of any of the following types of weapons.

At any time during the incident, did law enforcement personnel use ...	Total	Percent <sup>7</sup>
Firearm discharge	30	86%
Conducted energy devices (Taser) contact	2	6%
Pepper/OC spray, mace dispersion	0	0%
Baton/blunt instrument impact	0	0%
Other *	3	9%

\*represents reports of law enforcement personnel deploying stop sticks (1), tear gas (1) and non-lethal bean bag (1) during incident

Sixty-four percent (28) of the deaths were ruled a homicide by law enforcement and 30 percent (13) were the result of a suicide. The remaining 7 percent (3) were ruled an accident<sup>8</sup>. A firearm caused the death of 91 percent (40) of the decedents<sup>9</sup>.

When a toxicology report was available, it was determined that 73 percent (29) of the decedents tested positive for the presence of drugs and/or alcohol. Forty percent (16) of decedents tested positive for alcohol and 73 percent (29) of decedents tested positive for at least one drug at the time of their death.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Percent total will exceed 100 percent due to rounding.

<sup>9</sup> This percentage includes both the decedents' and law enforcement use of firearms.

## Location

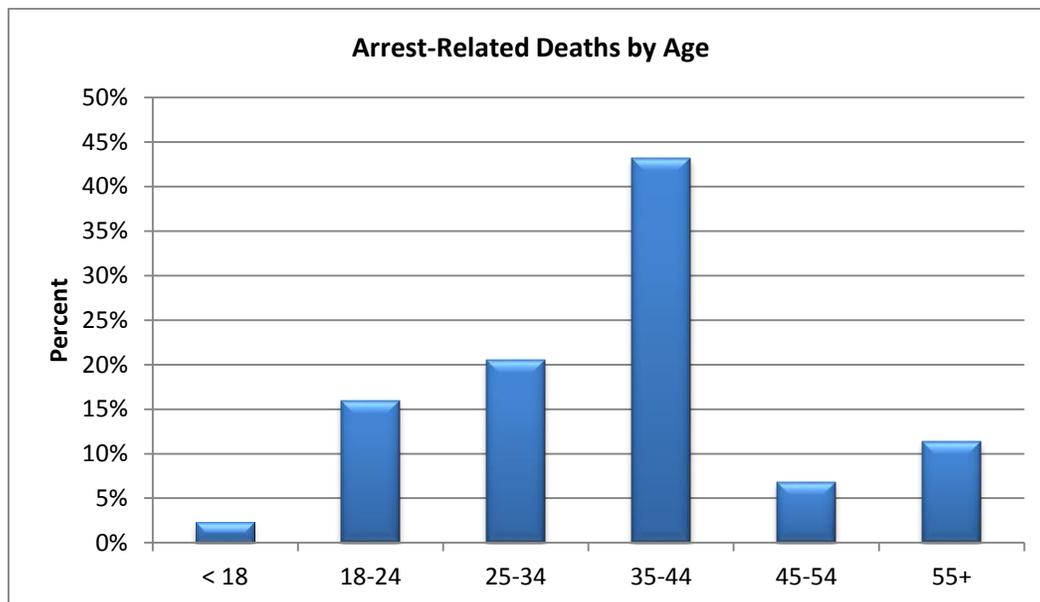
During the arrest-related incidents, 47 percent (20) occurred at a residence and 33 percent (14) occurred on a roadway/highway/street/sidewalk. Fifty-nine percent (26) of the decedents were pronounced dead at the crime or arrest scene while the remaining 41 percent (18) occurred upon the arrival at medical facility or following clinical intervention at a medical facility.

## Decedent Characteristics

Of the decedents identified in an arrest-related death, there were a total of 42 males and two females. Whites accounted for 59 percent of the arrest-related deaths, while Blacks accounted for 41 percent. White males also made up 57 percent of the deaths, with Black males accounting for 39 percent.

	Female Total	Percent	Male Total	Percent
Black	1	2%	17	39%
White	1	2%	25	57%

The average age of a decedent was 36.6 years and 43 percent of decedents were between the ages of 35 and 44 years. Of the Black decedents, 44 percent fell between the ages of 35 and 44 years, while 42 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:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_