



OHIO ARREST-RELATED DEATHS – 2015

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Highlights

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In 2015, the Office of Criminal Justice Services collected reports for 50 confirmed arrest-related deaths in Ohio. Homicide by law enforcement personnel accounted for 53% of those reported incidents.

Of the 50 arrest-related deaths, there were a total of 48 men and 2 women. Fifty-one percent were White males and Blacks males accounted for 45 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.

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Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2015

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
- 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 complications¹.
- 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 facility².

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

¹ This results in a more inclusive characterization of arrest-related deaths than officer involved shootings or justifiable homicides by law enforcement.

² Once an arrestee is arraigned or custody of the individual is transferred to a jail or prison, the death is no longer within the scope of the arrest-related program.

state or local law enforcement are reportable to the ARD program³.

- 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 his/her vehicle, these deaths are excluded from the ARD program. ARD incidents require that law enforcement take some kind of direct action against the subject. Such as 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).
- 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)⁴.

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 completed⁵. 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.

³ Current Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-242) includes federal law enforcement within scope.

⁴ 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.

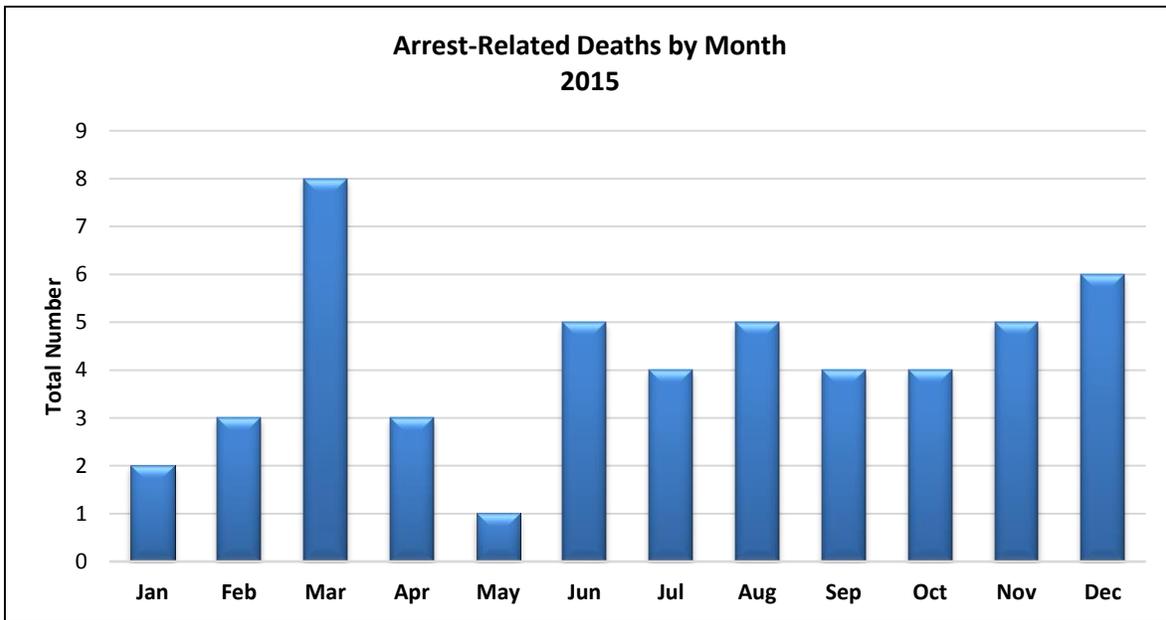
⁵ A copy of the federal Arrest-Related Death Report form can be found at the conclusion of this document.



Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths – 2015

Characteristics of Ohio Arrest-Related Deaths

In 2015, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) collected reports for 50 arrest-related deaths in Ohio. There were no patterns found when looking at the number of incidents based on the month of occurrence. The greatest number of incidents was reported in March, accounting for 16 percent of the arrest-related deaths.



Twenty-four counties were reported to have at least one arrest-related death, with Franklin County accounting for 18 percent of the incidents. Regionally, Northeast Ohio accounted for 38 percent of arrest-related death incidents.

Region	Total	Percent
Central	10	20%
Southeast	4	8%
Southwest	9	18%
Northeast	19	38%
Northwest	8	16%

Incident Circumstances

Of the 50 arrest-related deaths captured, 56 percent of incidents were initiated based on a civilian's request for response to criminal or suspicious activity.

Reason for initial contact	Total	Percent
Civilian request for medical, mental, health or welfare assistance	2	4%
Civilian request for response to criminal or suspicious activity	28	56%
Routine patrol/on-view (other than traffic stop)	9	18%
Traffic/vehicle stop	5	10%
Warrant service	4	8%
Other	1	2%
Unknown	1	2%

When circumstances were known, 20 incidents involved the decedent attempting to injure or injuring others. Of those incidents, the following were reported⁶:

- Thirteen or 65% attempted to injure law enforcement personnel
- Three or 15% non-fatally injured law enforcement personnel
- Three or 15% fatally injured law enforcement personnel
- Two or 10% non-fatally injured civilian(s)
- One or 5% attempted to injure civilian(s)

Fifty-six percent of the decedents either displayed or discharged a weapon during an arrest-related incident. Of the 20 incidents that involved a decedent attempting to injure or injuring others, 85 percent of the decedents displayed or discharged a weapon.

During the arrest-related death incidents, 34 percent of decedents were reported to have barricaded themselves or initiated standoff with law enforcement, and 24 percent were reported to have made suicidal statements. 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 ⁷
Make suicidal statements	9	24%
Barricade self or initiate standoff	13	34%
Verbally threaten other(s)	4	11%
Resist being handcuffed or arrested	2	5%
Attempt to escape/flee from custody	4	11%
Attempt to grab, hit, or kick officer(s)	4	11%
Attempt to gain possession of officer's weapon	1	3%
Gain possession of officer's weapon	1	3%

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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 50 arrest-related death incidents, there were 19 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 ⁸
Fight or struggle with decedent	7	23%
Physically restrain decedent (e.g. control hold, body compression)	1	3%
Restrain decedent with equipment (e.g. handcuffs, leg shackles)	6	20%
Place decedent in prone position	3	10%
Engage in motor vehicle pursuit	5	17%
Engage in foot pursuit	4	13%
Arrest the decedent	4	13%

There were 36 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 ⁹
Firearm discharge	29	74%
Conducted energy devices (Taser) contact	5	13%
Pepper/OC spray, mace dispersion	2	5%
Other *	3	8%

*Represents reports of law enforcement personnel using tear gas (2) and non-lethal bean bag (1) during arrest-related incident.

Of the incidents where manner of death could be determined, 53 percent of the deaths were ruled a homicide by law enforcement and 33 percent were the result of a suicide. Twelve percent of deaths were ruled accidental and two percent were natural causes. A firearm caused the death of 82 percent of the decedents¹⁰.

Location

Forty-eight percent of arrest-related incidents occurred at a residence and 32 percent occurred on a roadway/highway/street/sidewalk.

⁸ In some cases, law enforcement personnel were reported to have acted in more than one category during the incident.

⁹ In some cases, law enforcement personnel were reported to have used more than one type of weapon during the incident.

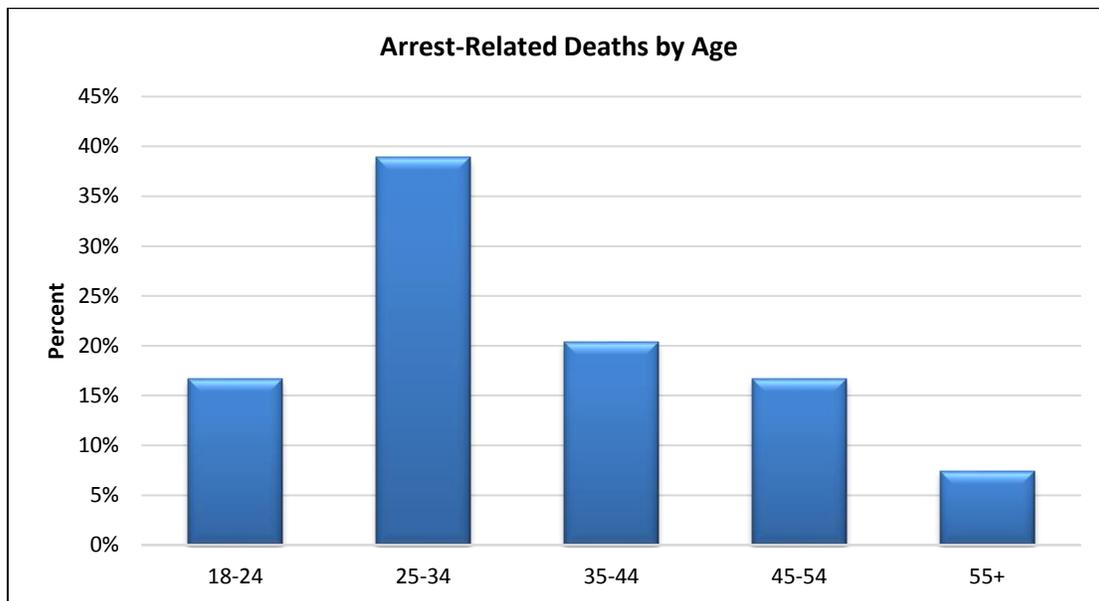
¹⁰ This percentage includes both the decedents' and law enforcement use of firearms.

Decedent Characteristics

Of the decedents identified in an arrest-related death, there were a total of 48 males and two females. Whites accounted for 55 percent of the arrest-related deaths, while Blacks accounted for 45 percent. White males also made up 51 percent of the deaths, with Black males accounting for 45 percent.

	Female Total	Percent	Male Total	Percent
Black	0	0%	22	45%
White	2	4%	25	51%

The average age of a decedent was 36.6 years and 39 percent of decedents were between the ages of 25 and 34 years. Forty-one percent of both black and white males fell between the ages of 25 and 34 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:

